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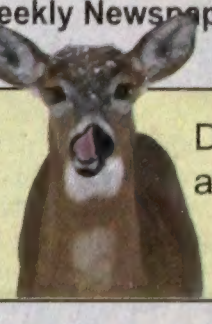

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Another Cat Tale Pg. 9

Bethel Road Chimney Fire

Roof in rough shape, but the cat & all residents are fine.

Another County house fire this past weekend was put out before it could engulf the whole residence. Minden firefighters were called out to 1377 Bethel Road on Saturday, February 2, 2008 at approximately 2:40pm to the residence of Mike Kitcheman.

Minden Fire Chief Doug Schell said 13 firefighters from Minden responded with 6 more assisting from Haliburton. Crews were there for three hours making sure the fire was out. Schell said the Minden and Haliburton crews did a good job keeping the fire at bay.

There was a lot of smoke, fire and water damage throughout the home. Shell said the possible cause was likely a faulty woodstove or creosote build up in the chimney.

One thankful kitty: Minden Fire Chief Doug Schell comes to the rescue! *Photos By:* Lyn Winans

106 Lot Subdivision Proposal Hits Dysart Council

Surveyor Paul Wilson presented a proposed application by his client, Greif Bros. Inc., for a large cottage subdivision involving 41 waterfront residential lots on Haliburton Lake and 65 more on Percy Lake, during Monday's Dysart Council Planning Meeting.

At Council's invitation, Christine Collins and Paul Metcaffe were both in attendance on behalf of the Haliburton Lake Cottage Association and Ken Loney was present representing the Percy Lake Ratepayers Association. The presentation made by Wilson is the first discussion with Council since a conceptual plan was presented several years ago. Wilson reported that since that time the lots have been redesigned based on an intense site inspection and are now much bigger, utilizing the entire acreage. Lot perimeters now proposed are much more irregular, following natural land features.

Wilson looked to the Council for direction on a number of questions which would allow his draft plans of the subdivision to meet Council's requirements. He spoke about the road system which plans to follow old logging roads and which would amount to about 20 Kilometres of road. Wilson wanted Council to decide whether they wanted to maintain that amount of road themselves given the number of lots they would service. He suggested as an option the subdivision might become what's called a common element condominium development, which would allow the road to be owned by a condo corporation that could

Subdivision cont'd... pg. 2

Dorset Man Sentenced for Sexual Assault

Not "Just a Hug"

On Wednesday February 6th, in the Ontario Court of Justice in Minden, John W. Clayton of Dorset ON was sentenced to one month in jail for his conviction on Sexual Assault charges stemming from an incident that took place almost two years ago. Clayton, the former Postmaster of Dorset, sexually assaulted Mrs. Margaret Shelly, a friend and local resident, in the lobby of the Dorset Post Office. After a 'consensual hug' Mr. Clayton proceeded to sexually grope Mrs. Shelly against her will. The case became a local cause celebre, with Dorset supporters of Mr. Clayton actively campaigning on his behalf and, according to Mrs. Shelly, attempting to intimidate, harass, and isolate her and her family.

In her victim statement before the Court on Wednesday Mrs. Shelly said the incident caused her to slide into a serious depression from which she still suffers: Mrs. Shelly also claimed that community waged a campaign of intimidation against her and her family, with displays of yellow ribbons in support of Clayton, had added greatly to her stress and depression. In his submission to the presiding Judge, Mr. Justice L.E. Chester, Crown Attorney Rick Bagg asked for a one month jail term on a number of grounds, including the lack of remorse on the part of the accused, and his unwillingness to accept his guilt. Mr. Bagg also said that Mr. Clayton had seemed to encourage his neighbours' alleged campaign against the Shelly family. Clayton's friends and

Court Report cont'd... pg. 3

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For listings, see second section of this newspaper.
SOLD

Highway 403 and Mavis Rd., Collision Results in Fatality

Minden Man Faces Charges of Impaired Driving Causing Death

Impaired driving is believed to be a factor in a fatal overnight crash in Mississauga.

At about 1:17PM, on February 2nd, 2008, Ontario Provincial Police officers from the Highway Safety Division's Port Credit Detachment, responded to the scene of a single motor vehicle collision that occurred on Highway 403, westbound, at the Mavis Rd., exit in Mississauga. Upon arrival, officers determined that a westbound vehicle (mini-van) had struck the centre cement guard rail, ejected a passenger, and continued on into the north side ditch. The ejected passenger, a 21 year old female Toronto area resident, was pronounced deceased at the scene. Two other passengers received very minor injuries.

The driver of the vehicle, a 28 year old Minden, Ontario resident, who was not injured, is facing charges of Impaired Driving Causing Death, and Dangerous Driving Causing Death. At press time the name of the parties involved was not released. The name of the Minden man will not be released until he has a court appearance.

Storage Unit Proposal for Koshlong Lake Rd.

Surveyor Paul Wilson made a presentation to Dysart Council Planning this week on behalf of a client regarding a proposal for the development of self contained storage units on Koshlong Lake Road, a proposal that's been under review by Council for some time. Council has been frustrated by the lack of a formal site plan submission by the owner and failure to meet several deadlines set by Council. Concern has also been raised in the past by neighbouring properties. The owner has now asked Wilson to investigate gaining historic status on a building that he had planned to demolish at considerable expense. Planner Pat Martin confirmed that there could be a reduction in taxes should be owner be successful in his goal for historical designation. The building in question is in fact the office portion of the old Donald Chemical Factory, which has been vacant for many years. The reduction, however, would only be allowed through formal approval by Council. The Council agreed to have staff write a letter to the owner requesting action within 30 days.

106 Lot Subdivion cont'd...

... from pg. 1

both build and maintain the roads 'almost' to township standards, relieving the township of the responsibility. Wilson said that there may be several locations where meeting township standards would be difficult given the terrain. If Council doesn't agree, Wilson did say that the roads could be rerouted. He added that the beauty of condominium ownership was that they would have to pay their share up front and the Municipality would not have to take the heat for costs to maintain the roads. Wilson assured the Council that regardless of the direction taken, his client was fully prepared to meet Council's standards.

Discussion also took place about the status of several sand beach areas. Several options were suggested including adding sections of the beach to adjacent lots, or having the township take them over or have them set aside for public or cottage association use. Wilson noted that even if retained by a condominium group the beaches could still be used by the public as visitors. However, the beaches would remain accessible only through the condo lots or by water.

Wilson raised concerns surrounding the requirement for private right-of-ways for 15 of the lots, snowmobile access and trails, an established portage identified under the Public Lands Act within the property, and right of ways along the river for public access. These items must all be considered by the Council and recommendations made to Wilson for inclusion in his formal proposal.

This is clearly a huge development, and both Cottage Associations voiced concerns about the consultation process. They seemed to be under the impression that a formal application had already been submitted for Council's review and that meetings had taken place without allowing for their input. Reeve Murray Fearrey pointed out that this was the first meeting that Council had held about the development, which remains in the proposal stage only. Paul Metcaffe and Christine Collins both agreed that Wilson had been more than accommodating with the associations, providing as much information as possible to date, but added that more than half of their members were opposed to the development. They wanted assurances that there would be a full consultation process. Wilson responded that his client had already spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on the proposal and they would not be prepared to walk away, adding that they would proceed to make every effort to meet all requirements and allay as many concerns as possible. He confirmed that he still had a number of impact assessments to complete prior to making his formal submission and that he planned to consult with the associations about their concerns. Wilson also advised that his client proposed to complete the development in three or four phases.

As to Metcaffe's comments that other issues remained to be addressed like fire protection, policing and landfill requirements, Wilson suggested that each cottage association establish a working group that he could meet with to provide further clarification on his client's plans and in the hopes of allaying many of the concerns being raised. Association representatives agreed with this suggestion and both parties plan to remain in contact to set up meetings in the near future. In the interim Reeve Fearrey advised that the Council must be given an opportunity to consider the questions posed by Wilson, adding that no formal response could be given until the official application was received.

This is obviously a major development for Dysart, with huge ramifications for the Haliburton and Percy Lake cottagers and residents, and the Voice will be following the story every step of the way.

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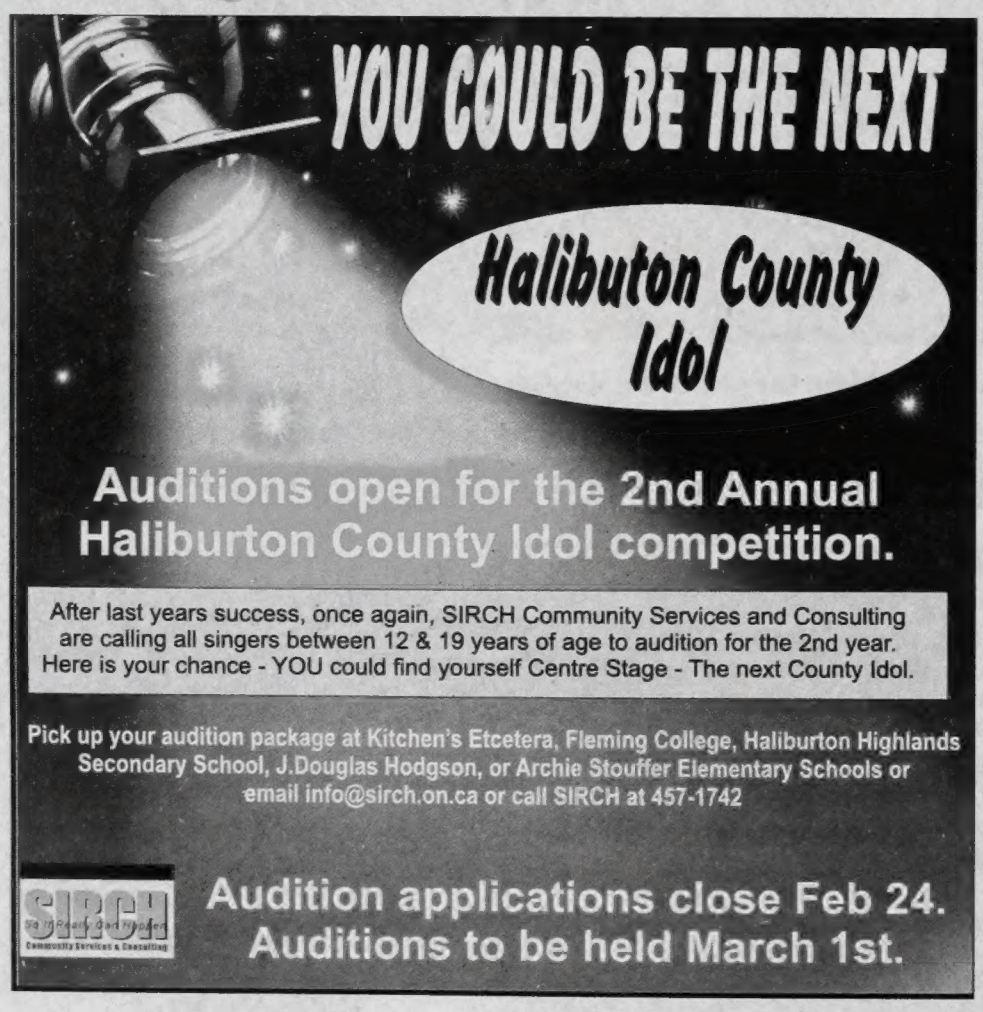

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Sunny	Flurries	Light Snow	A few flurries	Cloudy periods	Sunny	Light Snow.	

Weather is susceptible to change.

Your Unofficial Lotto Numbers

Lotto 649
February 2 2008
07 11 13 34 46 47
Bonus Number 09
Encore 4573393

Super 7
February 1 2008
11 13 17 28 34 40 42
Bonus Number 08
Encore 9328840

These are all unofficial numbers. To confirm a win please visit www.olg.ca or visit a local authorized OLG dealer.

Starting January 28, all lottery tickets must be signed. SIGN YOUR LOTTO TICKET

Congratulations to George Morris from Minden, who was the secondary prize winner in January 23 Lotto 6/49 draw. The winning $88,169 ticket was purchased at the Hub variety store, located in Carnarvon.

Moments in time

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

On Feb. 10, 1920, "Kathleen Mavourneen," starring Theda Bara, provokes a riot when it opens in San Francisco. Rioters sacked the Sun Theater in protest of the film's portrayal of the Irish poor.

On Feb. 11, 1858, in southern France, Marie-Bernarde Soubirous, a 14-year-old French peasant girl, claims to have seen the Virgin Mary. The apparitions, which totaled 18 before the end of the year, occurred in a grotto of a rock promontory near Lourdes.

Defense Claims Client Has Suffered Enough & Asks For Probation

... from pg. 1

family had taken to describe the incident as "just a hug", which the Crown was quick to point out, with reference to Mrs. Shelly's statement, and Clayton's conviction, was clearly not an accurate version of the event.

In Clayton's defense, Lawyer Dennis Lowry vigorously denied that his client had ever participated in any campaign against the Shellys and pointed out that his client had suffered greatly as a result of the incident. "He's lost his job, he's attempted to commit suicide, he's disgraced in his community, and he's taking medication for a wide variety of ailments, including depression. This man has no criminal record, has been an outstanding local citizen, and poses no risk whatsoever to the community." Mr. Lowry therefore asked Mr. Justice Chester to reject the Crown's call for jail time, and to allow his sentence to be served in the community.

In his summation Mr. Justice Chester said the case was indeed a difficult one, but he emphasized to the considerable number of Clayton's supporters present in Court, that he had never convicted anyone for hugging: he said sharply that this was not a case of 'just a hug' and that the community should understand that Clayton had been convicted of sexual assault in a fair, if contentious, trial. He then sentenced Clayton to one month in jail, to be followed up with a period of probation and counselling.

Mr. Clayton was then taken into custody as his friends and supporters stood by. During the sentencing procedure two observers had to be ejected from the Court for interrupting the proceedings.

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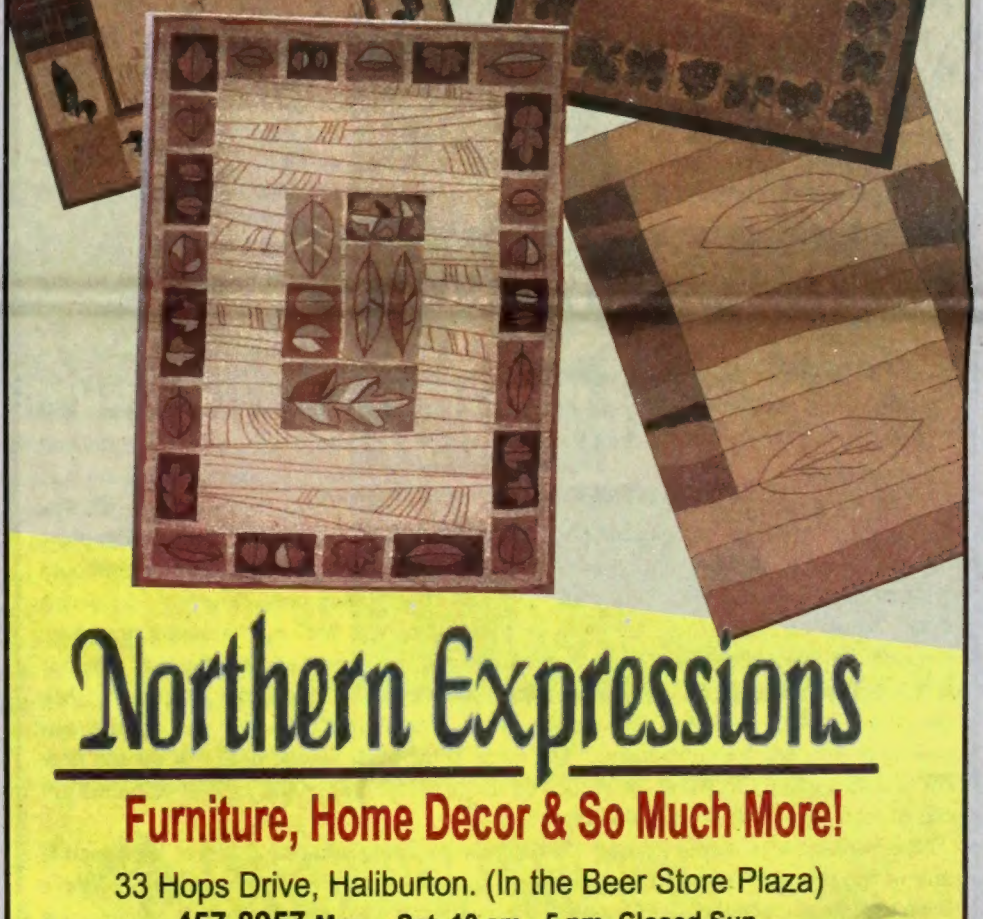

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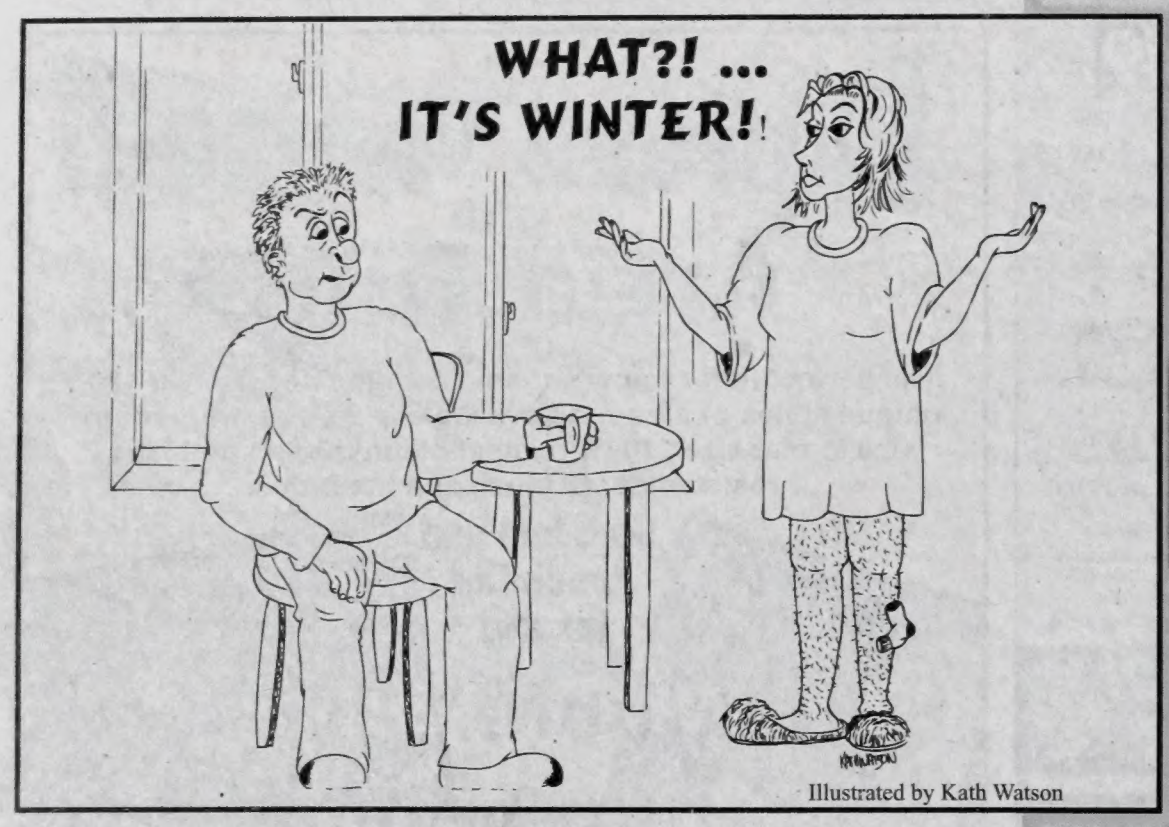

Illustrated by Kath Watson

Letter of the Week

Mailbox Vandals Pushing The Limits

Dear Editor

Firstly, I would like to congratulate The County Voice on their 1st publication. Our family thoroughly enjoyed all your articles & we actually were able to finish the newspaper about our beautiful Haliburton County. Excellent reporting folks & nicely laid out. We look forward to the next copy on Feb. 7th.

We retired to Haliburton County 3 years ago Dec. 31st, but we purchased our home 5 yrs ago & enjoyed retreating here on weekends & holidays. In the 5 years, we have had to replace our mailbox twice due to a group of people coming along with a crowbar & bashing/destroying mailboxes. The first time this happened, we considered the nuisance an "Oh! Well". We were still working in the Metro Toronto area & we considered the culprits were party goers letting off steam.

The second time it happened Jan. 29th in the wee hours of the night. It was determined by the township official that damage was not done by the snowplow because several mailboxes were viciously destroyed, including our neighbours whose mail was tossed on the road. We are now pensioners & we try to watch even more carefully our financial resources. We are not amused anymore because our neighbourhood is being vandalized by someone wielding a crowbar with a lot of strength & determination to destroy Haliburton property. My neighbour's mail box was the sturdy green plastic mailbox you see around our county & they are not inexpensive. The force of the blow was so hard that the top flew off & it was either thrown in the woods on the opposite side of the road or someone got out of their vehicle & hit it in that direction.

The consensus was it was thrown. We were wondering what might have happened if any of the property owners had challenged these hooligans? We know it would have been too late to catch them, if the police were called & we certainly weren't going to risk trying to get the license plate number of the vehicle used during this rampage. Would anyone dare to take that chance today?

Our mailperson advised us there has been quite a few mail boxes destroyed again this year.

We have been part of Haliburton County since I was 12 years of age. We did our courting in Haliburton & we enjoyed our 2 personally built family cottages on Redstone Lake for 15 years. My family sold the cottages which are still standing today to finance their dream of being farmers. My husband & I visited & vacationed in Haliburton with our friends of 35 years who reside here too. Our children grew up together & now our families are visiting & deciding to live in Haliburton County too. What a shame a few lummoxes have to spoil the image of our beautiful Haliburton County.

I don't think we should have to consider this as an "Oh, Well" again. This could escalate to even more vandalism. Maybe there are others in Haliburton Country who might have a solution to this problem. If you could see some of the conditions of the mail boxes that were destroyed on our mail route, you too might also decide that this is more than an Oh! Well.....does anyone care this is happening in our beautiful Haliburton Highlands. Our neighbour was able to repair his mailbox, but it was weakened & may not last another winter or the next onslaughts. Sadly, our mailbox could not be repaired again.

Letter cont'd... pg. 5...

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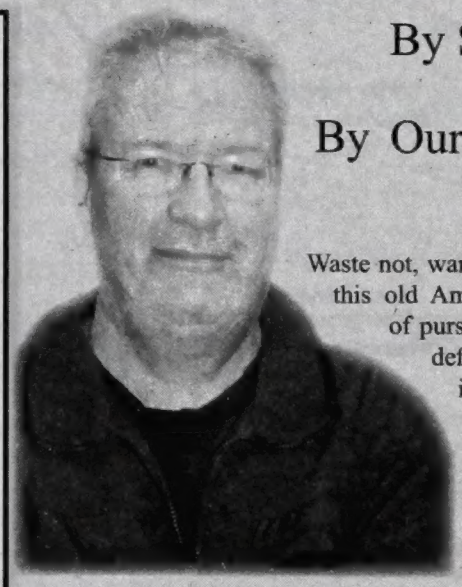
EDITORIAL VIEWPOINT



By Stephen Patrick

By Our Trash Shall You Know Us

Waste not, want not. Who'd have thought that this old American proverb, with its whiff of pursed lip Puritanism, might in fact define this glitzy new century with its sleek iPhones and iPods, plasma screens and paperless commerce?

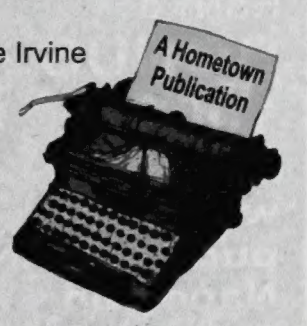
Thing is, you still have to take out the garbage. Steak bones aren't digital, old leaky boots can't be deleted, and babies still deposit the real thing into their diapers. Waste disposal is certainly a defining issue for our Municipal Councils. Their clear responsibility is to devise systems and legislation that will protect and preserve the environment. But in order to succeed they must have the citizenry on side: and to do that regulations must be as clear as the plastic bags we're all supposed to be using for our trash. Inevitably each of the four Councils has taken a slightly different approach to the problem, causing some of the confusion. Minden will soon be weighing all commercial vehicles as they enter and leave the Scotch Line landfill site: eventually all cars and trucks will be monitored, with license plates noted electronically to track ratepayers use. In Dysart the approach so far is perhaps less draconian. And in fact the ratio of green-to-clear bags at Dysart's main landfill appears to be shifting in the right direction at a satisfactory pace (see accompanying story on page 6 & 7 in section two).

Changing our waste disposal habits at first might be irritating. But in fact, separating our garbage into different categories involves just a few seconds' thought, and a few extra containers; rinsing out food packaging adds just a minute or two to the washing up. After a week of two it becomes second nature. And just think: two generations ago there was no winter landfill in all of Haliburton County. People simply burned refuse, or reused and recycled other waste. Most farms had their own small, environmentally friendly landfill for items like old shoes or even bits of broken machinery. When my family first cottaged here in the 1940s we burned most paper and waste refuse in the wood stove (which we also cooked on), including our tins (which we dutifully buried). So how did we change so quickly?

Think plastic, petroleum, and packaging. A half century ago we re-used milk bottles and packed veggies, meat and fish in burnable paper: there was no packaged pizza, no frozen food. We used paper bags to take groceries home: we preserved vegetables and fruits for use during the long winter. Most of my generation's parents had survived the Depression – and a World War – so any kind of waste, particularly food waste, was abhorrent.

Nowadays disposable packaging is used for almost all the items we buy day to day – it's really impossible to avoid. The need to separate the packaging, and the containers, from regular landfill garbage is obvious, as is the need for provincial and federal governments to force manufacturers and food processors to produce environmentally friendly packaging. For sure, many people are genuinely annoyed at being told how they must separate and dispose of their garbage, and governments at all levels need to understand that annoyance. But in the long run Municipalities have little choice but to enforce strict landfill use rules. And in fact this observer has noticed how careful and particular so many citizens are being as they trundle their bundles of different types of waste from bin to bin at our landfills. And sometimes you can even sense a kind of pride that maybe, just maybe, they're actually doing the right thing.

The County Voice



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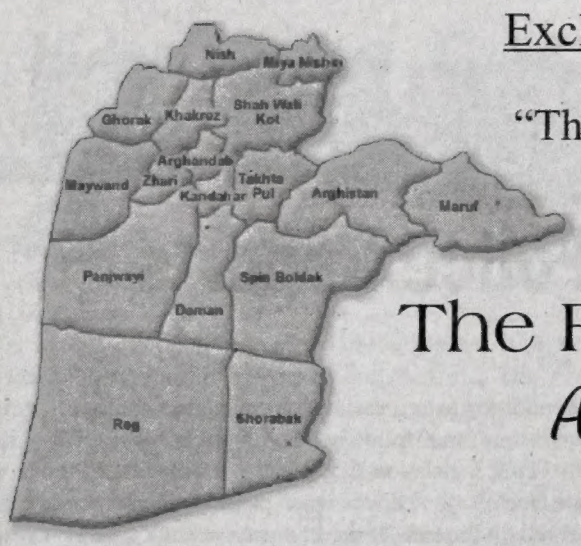


Exclusive to the County Voice

"The Big Question now is, Where do I Put all this Stuff?"

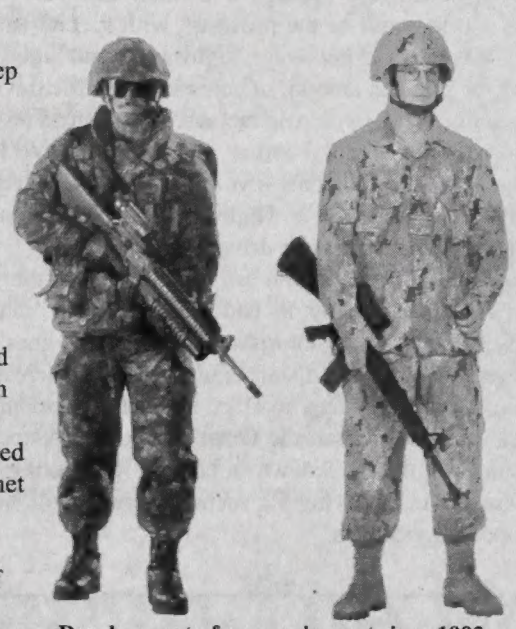
The Road to Kandahar

A Soldier's Journal

by Captain David Beatty

For most people, the first few weeks of January involve trying to keep on that fitness program which you made as one of your New Year's resolutions, or else opening the bills from Christmas.

Here in Petawawa, the first few weeks saw the expansion of the Headquarters and the arrival of a few hundred individuals who will be deploying with the Task Force in September. The weeks were filled with the drawing of equipment, uniforms and weapons. Long lines formed at the Base Quarter Master Stores as we were issued our ARID pattern uniforms and equipment required for our deployment. Just as my wife got all of the Christmas decorations put away, I arrived home with two large boxes of desert/ARID pattern "stuff" about which she immediately remarked "where are you going to put all that?" Well after a few trips back and forth to the truck the family room was covered in piles of uniform shirts, pants, boots, camouflage covers for my helmet and body armour and miscellaneous parts which I am still trying to figure out.



Development of our equipment since 1993

With every deployment, I never cease to be amazed at the amount of equipment we get issued. In 1993, during my first deployment to the Balkan's, I was issued a few additional pairs of socks, a pair of wet weather boots and a GORTEX jacket. The flack jacket I was issued closely resembled those worn by US forces during the Vietnam War. To top it all off I was also given a can of blue spray paint for my helmet (lovely UN Blue). And with this gear, we all happily left for the Balkans.

Today we have the state of the art body armour, ballistic eye wear, and an extensive list of mission specific clothing items. Tactical Vests have replaced the belt and pouches system of the individuals "webbing" which most people identify soldiers as wearing. A hydration system is incorporated into the Tactical Vest, which allows a soldier to drink through a hose system (thereby removing the requirement to pull out a bulky canteen from a pouch on your belt).

Captain Beatty in Bosnia

A systematic layering system has been integrated into our uniforms, which now allow a soldier to stay dry, warm (or cool) and which rivals anything on the commercial market. Our uniforms are now a digital camouflage pattern (CADPAT - Canadian Disruptive Pattern) which comes in two separate styles; Temperate Woodland (TW) and Arid Regions (AR). CADPAT TW has been rated best Tropical and Temperate Camouflage by NATO soldiers. This system has been found to be so effective that a number of other countries have adopted the digital camouflage system.

Forces on patrol. photo by DND/MND

A far cry from were we were in 1993, when we deployed with the standard green uniforms , 1970s technology flack jackets and the 1950s style helmet. As I stare at this pile of equipment, I have to admit that the Canadian solder is very well equipped for operations. State of the art body armour and ballistic protection which are individually sized provide a layer of protection for the soldier that many of us in 1993 could only have dreamed of. The big question now is – were do I put all this stuff?

The Kandahar Series

This week marks the second installment of Captain David Beatty's series on the week-by-week preparations he and his fellow soldiers will undergo before they ship out to Afghanistan in three months time. With these articles we hope to give our readers a deeper understanding of the work and life our soldiers lead – and to illustrate just how complex and difficult their preparatory work can be.

This week Captain Beatty describes the changes in gear and uniforms that the Forces have made since he was served in Bosnia in the early 1990s.

Captain Beatty is the son of Bill and Ann Beatty of Drag Lake, Haliburton, and is a member of the Royal Canadian Regiment. He's served with The Canadian Airborn Regiment and the Canadian Parachute Centre. He's also a graduate of the United States Marine Corps Amphibious Warfare School and has completed tours of duty in Germany and two operational deployments in Bosnia.

We hope our readers learn a little more about the life Canadian soldiers lead, both here and overseas. As always, we welcome your comments.

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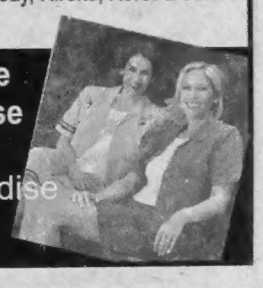

Letters cont'd...

... from pg. 4

We should not have to put up with these actions. Our friends & neighbours have informed us this has become a yearly ritual. Whoever you are, you should hang your head in shame & be made to pay restitution to the families whose property you have destroyed. Would your family be proud of your actions? Shame on you! Someday you will have to face the consequences & show some responsibility for your actions.

Thank you
P.J. Fraser

Letters To The Editor Welcomed !!

We are now accepting Letters to the Editor - so let us know what you have to say. You can email them to letters@countyvoice.ca, or mail to Letters - Box 930 Haliburton, Ont. K0M 1S0 - or drop them off at the office located in the lower level of Stedman's Mall in Haliburton.

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This Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce event is an evening to celebrate and honour the achievements and contributions of people who live and work in Haliburton County. Nomination forms and ticket pricing will be available soon.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

1	7				6			9
	5			8			4	2
		3	9			6		
	9		4			8		
		6		7			2	
2					3	1		7
8				9		5		
	4				5			6
		1	7	2			3	

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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See Sudoku solutions in second section

Police Cracking Down On Aggressive Commercial Vehicle Drivers

Police Reports

Ontario Provincial Police will be using all available resources for traffic patrol throughout February in an effort to reduce aggressive driving and collisions involving commercial vehicles, Commissioner Julian Fantino said.

Both traffic unit cruisers and unmarked cars will be patrolling the roads of the province, with special emphasis on the 400 series of highways, highway 11 and highway 17, where a significant amount of commercial traffic travels.

"Recently, we have seen an increase in collisions involving commercial vehicles," Fantino said. "There have been a number of major incidents involving commercial vehicles, including one last week on Highway 401 at Morrisburg that resulted in the death of one driver.

"Commercial drivers who are travelling over the posted speed limits, especially in bad weather, are a danger to themselves and other motorists. As their speed goes up, so too does their stopping distance, which further increases the likelihood of them being involved in a major incident."

The OPP has written the Ontario Trucking Association, advising that the crackdown is coming and asking for its cooperation in notifying its members there will be little tolerance for violators.

In addition to aggressive driving, going too fast for weather conditions and following too closely, the OPP will be enforcing legislation that mandates all vehicles move over one lane if safe to do so, when passing an emergency vehicle parked on the side of the highway with its emergency lights activated. If it's a two-lane road, drivers must slow down to a reasonable speed.

Three OPP officers have been involved in incidents recently where they were either hit by a vehicle or their cruiser was hit while they were parked on the side of the road, with their lights activated.

"The frequency of incidents involving commercial vehicles recently, and the resulting deaths, injuries, damage and road closures is a major concern to the police and the motoring public," Fantino said. "We know that commercial vehicles haven't been responsible for all the major incidents we saw in January. But where tractor trailers were involved, they in many cases, contributed to long road closures."

Results will be tracked on a daily basis and OPP traffic patrol resources deployed to various parts of the province as needed.

Man Charged With Impaired Driving After Striking Cruiser

On Sunday February 3, 2008, in the early morning hours officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment conducted a R.I.D.E. program on Loop Rd in Highlands East Township.

Officers attempted to stop a vehicle that was travelling on Loop Rd at which time the driver ignored the request and fled northbound on Loop Rd. Officers followed the vehicle which eventually went out of control and ended up in a snow bank on Loop Rd. Officers arrived at the scene and once again attempted to get the driver to stop. The driver continued to ignore the request and attempted to flee the scene, striking one of the cruisers. The driver was then arrested by the officers and taken to the Haliburton Highlands Detachment.

Jason Carmen Wood 31 years of Highlands East is charged with Flight from a police officer, Dangerous operation of a motor vehicle, Impaired driving and Driving with over 80mgs. Mr Wood will be appearing in Minden court on April 2, 2008 in relation to the charges.

No one was injured during the collision and the cruiser received minor damage as a result of the incident.

Minden Male Charged With Failing To Provide Breath Sample

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment have charged a male party after stopping a vehicle in the early morning hours of February 1, 2008.

Officers were on patrol when they stopped a pickup truck that was travelling on County Rd#21 in the Township of Dysart et al. The driver of the truck, Craig William Armstrong 25 years of Minden Hills Township was subsequently charged with Failing to Provide a Breath Sample contrary to the Criminal Code of Canada.

Mr. Armstrong will be appearing in Minden court on April 2, 2008 in relation to the charge.

R.I.D.E. on Rail Trail Report

Officers from the Haliburton Highlands Detachment conducted a R.I.D.E. program on Friday February 1, 2008 in the afternoon hours on the rail line near Ritchie Falls Road in the Township of Dysart et al.

Officers checked 25 snow machines and charged one driver. The driver of one snow machine was charged for speeding after he was clocked at over 150 km/h.
The speed limit on area trails is 50 km/h.

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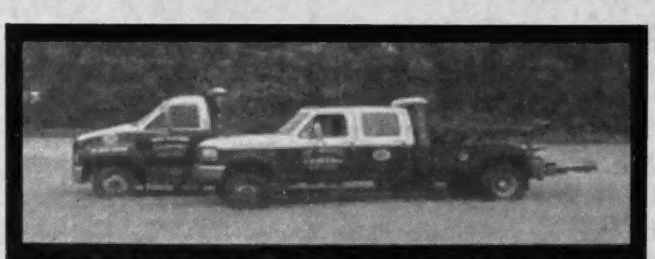
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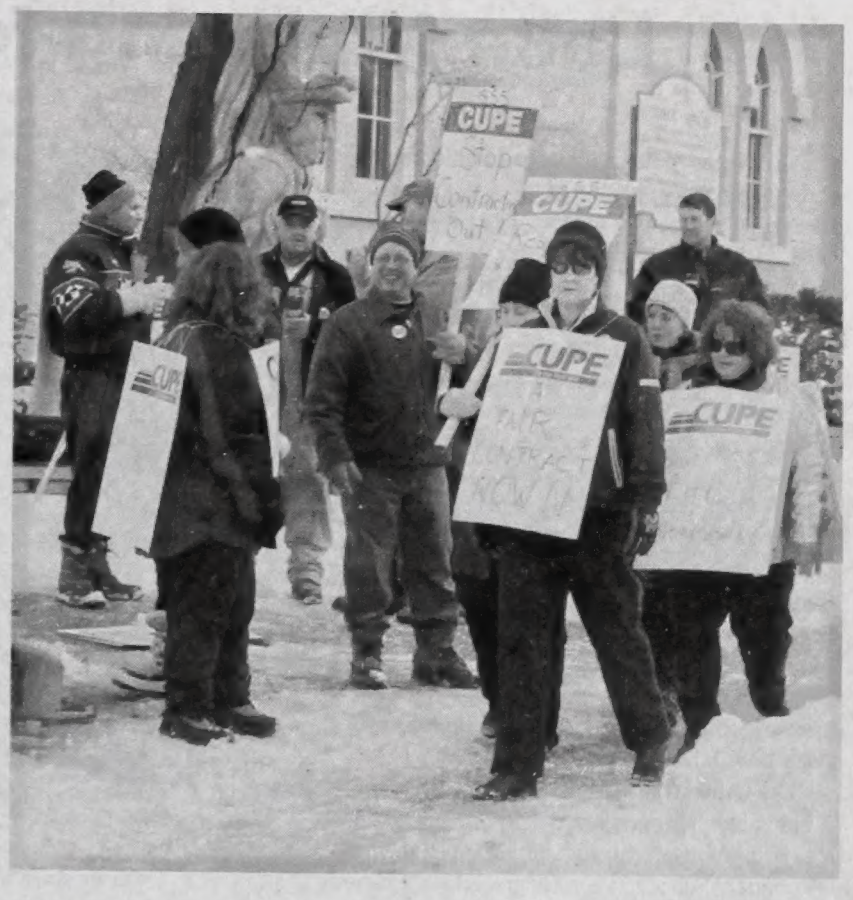


CUPE local 855, representing 400 inside and outside Municipal workers in the City of Kawartha Lakes, has gone on strike as of Monday, February 4th, and some important Haliburton County Social Services will be affected.

Social Services deals primarily with the Ontario Works and Child Care Subsidy programs, interviewing clients and expediting assistance and benefits. The City of Kawartha Lakes issued a press release yesterday stating that "all requests for assistance and other essential benefits will be processed as quickly as possible. All requests should be directed to the Lindsay office by telephone at 705 324-9870, or toll free at 1 877-324-9870."

But clients needing help will only be able to leave a message at those numbers – and will have to wait for management staff to return their calls, hopefully within 24 hours. One of the Kawartha Lakes CUPE staff who works in the Haliburton office told the County Voice yesterday that: "we're worried that there will be no proper supervision of clients, nobody to look after their needs or even talk to them." There are two social workers, two clerical staff, and one other staff person in the Haliburton office. Yesterday they were on the picket line in Lindsay fighting for what they hope will be a just contract.

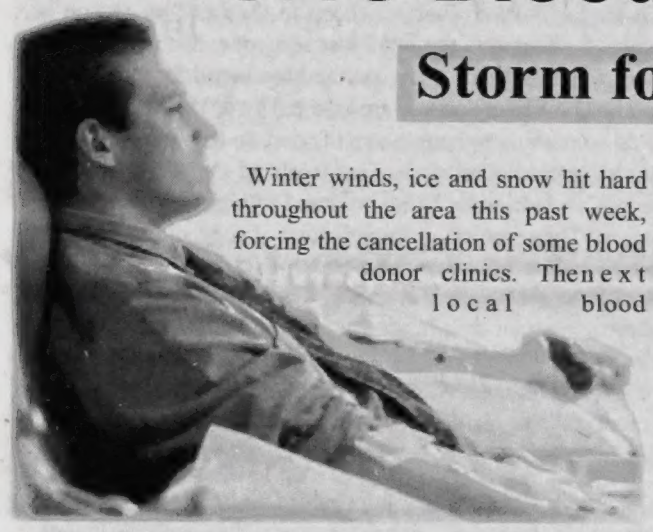
"The major issue is contracting our jobs out," the worker said, "not in social services, but for snowplowing, garbage disposal and road maintenance." Contracting out of services has been a major union-management issue in Municipalities across Canada, and won't likely go away soon.

The job action will also affect some local nutrition programs run by the Haliburton, Kawartha and Pine Ridge District Health Unit: the Basis Shelf Cooking Program is postponed, as is the Good Food Box Program.

But the CUPE strike has created one benefit for Haliburton residents. Mike Keaney of Keaney Chrysler in Minden reports that due to the CUPE action the Junior A level Lindsay Muskies will be playing their next home game at the Minden Arena on Saturday at 7:30 versus the Quinte Pack. This should be a great chance for local hockey players to see a high level Junior Game in person. The Muskies will also hold a practice at the Minden Arena this Thursday at 3:30. Mike's son Aaron, along with Minden's Mitch Vasey, play for the Muskies.

Give Blood Before The Next Storm Strikes

Storm forces cancellation of some blood donor clinics



Winter winds, ice and snow hit hard throughout the area this past week, forcing the cancellation of some blood donor clinics. The next local blood donor clinic will be held at the Haliburton Legion, 12:30 to 6:30pm, February 25th. Canadian Blood Services is calling on people across the region to make an appointment to give blood 'before the next storm strikes.'

Winter storms, like this latest one on Friday, have a negative impact on the level of donations, as people cannot get to blood donor clinics and some clinics are forced to cancel.

Along with bad weather, there may also be an increase in the number of traffic accidents, which can result in an increasing demand for blood – especially Type O negative (used primarily in trauma situations).

From early February to late March, patients in central Ontario hospitals will need over 30,000 units of blood. That number is 7,000 more units than has been forecasted will be donated in this region over the same time-period. And that is without taking the weather into consideration. While we can import blood from other areas of the country to make up this shortfall, we shouldn't have to as one of Ontario's most productive blood collection regions.

We need your donation. If you haven't given blood in a while, or are considering doing so, we urge you to contact:

Canadian Blood Services at 1 888 2 DONATE (1 888 236-6283) to book an appointment

All blood types are needed, with the greatest demand for type "O" blood.

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Local Boy to Hike Across Hostile Lake Nipissing for Cancer

Tyson Farrell
Staff Reporter

As citizens of the Haliburton Highlands, we have all grown accustomed to the frigid embrace of winter. We endure the cold, the ice, and the relentless snow. We may think that we have it tough, but there are many regions of Ontario that experience far more severe winter weather. This is certainly true for the North Bay area, where temperatures frequently fall below 35° Celsius, and brutal winds ravish the natural landscape. Such an inhospitable winter environment can easily convince a person to remain indoors, but one Haliburton native is setting out on a sub-zero journey across the barren expanse of North Bay's Lake Nipissing. The person brave enough to embark on such an endeavour is Minden's very own Tristan Ellis.

The name Tristan Ellis is known by many Highlanders, for he played a prominent role in the community during his Haliburton Highlands Secondary School career. He graced local stages as one of the area's prominent tuba musicians, risked life and limb regularly playing rugby, and was the valedictorian of his graduating class. He now attends Nipissing University in North Bay, where he peruses his dream of becoming a high school teacher. Although he already has a busy life balancing academics and sports, 19 year old Tristan is eager to conquer the frigid surface of Lake Nipissing. "I've always been an outdoors person, and I love winter, but I have to admit, I've never done anything quite like this before," he laughs. Tristan plans to walk the entire distance of the lake this February with four of his friends. His brave companions are Kyle Newman, Andrew Bartle, and Mathew Floyd, all of whom are 19 years old, and attend Nipissing University.

Walking across a frozen Haliburton Highlands' lake may not be that great an accomplishment, but hiking across Lake Nipissing certainly is. The lake is 65 kilometres long, and they boys believe that it will take six days to walk. Each day they hope to snowshoe more than ten kilometres, which will be difficult since two people will need to continuously break a trail, and the other two will be towing cargo toboggans filled with supplies. The load will be heavy, since tents, water, food, bedding, clothing, and emergency equipment must be carried. Each night the four boys will pitch Egyptian cotton tents and camp out in the middle of the frozen lake. "There's no two ways about it. It's not going to be easy," says Tristan. "But it will certainly let us know what we are made of, and how much we are capable of enduring."

"Our hike will begin at the west end of the lake, about half way between North Bay and Sudbury, near the town of Lavigne. We will start heading southeast in the early morning, and will continue until we make camp that night, hopefully having show shoed more than ten kilometres. The next day we will walk southeast until we are about a kilometre from the southern shore. Then we will follow the shoreline at that distance, avoiding most of the small islands. Then we will camp again. The same thing will happen the next day. On the third day we hope to make camp near the French River," Tristan explains. The French River was originally a subject of concern for Tristan and his companions, for they realized that ice can be dangerously thin where rivers drain into lakes. In order to learn about the possible hazards of the river area, the boys went to the people that knew the lake the best. They met with local aboriginal elders who assured them that the area was safe, telling them that the portion of the lake near the river freezes quite solid each year. This reassured the boys, but they are still taking precautions. "We plan to stay at least two kilometres away from where the French River meets the lake." Tristan says. "We are not going about this expedition in an absent minded, foolhardy way. We're planning every out, thinking things through, and doing all we can to make it as safe as possible."

After passing the French River, the four companions will turn northeast. "We will be aiming for two groups of islands, which we hope to reach on two separate days. The second group contains Newman Island, which can be seen from North Bay's higher lookout points. The island is the site of an abandoned, and recently collapsed, nickel mine, and it will act as our final campground. After spending the night on the island, we will walk the remaining length of the lake the next day, where a car will be waiting to pick us up," says Tristan.

If all goes according to plan, the four boys will have completed an epic journey across inhospitable terrain. It is important to realize, however, that there are many risks involved, and that winter camping can be a dangerous affair. When temperatures plummet during winter nights, an enjoyable hike can easily turn into a battle for survival. The adventurous boys are very aware of this, but remain determined to embark on their quest. "We're not doing this in some kind of attempt to show our strength, or to look like big men, or anything egotistical like that," speaks Tristan. "We have a far more important reason to do this. Our reason is cancer." Recently, the boys lost someone close to them to cancer, which made them realize how awful the disease is, and just how many people are affected by it. The boys wanted to do something to help others in need, so they began raising funds for cancer research. They realized that Terry Fox got people's attention by being bold and trying to run across the nation. Therefore, they thought that if they did something extreme, like hike across Lake Nipissing, they might also be able to get people's attention. For weeks they have been advertizing their epic fundraiser around North Bay, and they have begun to collect funds. Every cent that they collect will be given to organizations that are attempting to find a cure for cancer. "We're just trying to do our bit to fight this disease," Tristan says.

The boys' efforts are admirable, and their approaching journey is daunting. At the moment it appears as though they are more concerned with collecting funds for cancer research than the frigid journey that lies ahead of them. If the determination and resolve that they four boys display is any indication, they will succeed in both of their challenges. If you would like to donate and help the boys' fundraiser, you can reach Tristan at 286-2798.

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And the Cat came home ... but not the very next day!

Lyn Winans
Photojournalist

Kathy Sutcliffe and her family had given up hope: their nine month old cat, Chandler, had been missing for five weeks. Shortly after Christmas, a neighbour had reported seeing the cat close to the guardrails on the side of Highway 35. Chandler's fate seemed inevitable. The family combed the ditches expecting the worst, but didn't find a trace of their gray and white tabby. Inquiries brought no further news of the feline's whereabouts.

As a last resort the family decided to put an ad in the local papers in the hope that Chandler might be found: they figured it was the least they could do for a missing family member. But before the ad was placed, a friend who had seen an ad in last week's first edition of the County Voice contacted Kathy. *"FOUND – Young male grey and white short-haired cat"*, but it was the description of the ring on Chandler's tail that really hit home. It had to be their cat -- and sure enough it was!

Apparently Chandler had found his way to the Kernohan Construction business site at the corner of Highways 35 and 121. James Kernohan and his grandfather, John, found Chandler cold and skinny. They fed and sheltered the lost cat as if it was one of their own. John Kernohan's granddaughter, Erin, had placed the free classified in the County Voice: and on the very day of publication Chandler was home again with his very happy family. When told how thrilled the Sutcliffe family was to see Chandler again, James said, "I was just glad that I could help."

Kathy Sutcliffe was extremely impressed and grateful that people would be so caring and kind to her lost pet.

Seems "classifieds" really do work ... at least they did for Chandler! We at the County Voice are pleased to have played a part in Chandler's reunion, and it sure helped make a gratifying beginning for us as the "new kids on the block".

Welcome home Chandler!

So the cat came home ...but not the very next day.

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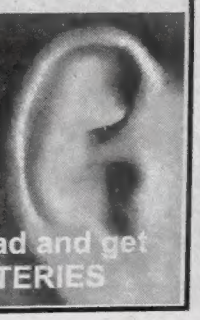

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COUNTY VOICE
SPORTS

Red Hawks Rebound to Rip Lakefield

Thursday, February 7, 2008

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Hawks 6 – Lakefield 3

The hockey Red Hawks might have been suffering from a collective case of PESD in the early stages of their tilt against AA division rival Lakefield District High School.

PESD? That's psych-speak for the doldrums that occur in the aftermath of an extended period of torture known as First Semester Exams. Call it Post-Examination-Stress-Disorder.

Whatever the cause, the lethargic looking Red Hawks dug into a 2-0 first period deficit before finally rebounding to a solid 6-3 win over a smaller but quick-stepping Lakefield team.

Lakefield scored 58 seconds into the first frame and added another at 3:58 of the opening period to push into a surprising 2-0 lead over the Red Hawks.

Co-coach Ron Yake said, after the game at Dysart Arena on Monday night, that the early onslaught caught his team a little off guard.

"They came out very fast," said Yake. "We haven't played for a while and we've been in exams, but then again so has Lakefield."

The Red Hawks possess a distinct size advantage over most teams in the league, but that size factor was nullified by Lakefield's early breakout style. Both Lakefield goals came on quick up-ice, up-tempo flurries.

However, Yake and co-coach Gary Brohman quelled the surging tide with a well-known remedy for PESD.

The remedy? Finish the check, take the man and play the body.

Some athletes swear by Wheaties, but most hockey players prefer "Captain Crunch."

The Red Hawks shook off the early doldrums and cranked their way back into the tilt with a fulsome round of snap, crackle and pop.

"I think the turning point came when we started to become physical," said Yake.

The bleeding stopped for the Hawks when Josh Townsend tallied with under a minute remaining in the first frame.

Townsend had a goal and two assists in the contest and was a force throughout the game.

However, the goal of the night was posted at 1:41 of the second frame.

In a nifty play, reminiscent of the always acute Stevie Yzerman, Jesse Tallman open-handed a high-flying puck in the slot, knocked it to the ice and in a quick deft motion fired the disc past a sprawling and surprised Lakefield backstop.

That knotted the score at 2, but it also seemed to spark a surge in Red Hawk fortunes.

Yake allowed that after the slow start, the Hawks seemed to regroup quickly after succumbing to the early Lakefield storm.

Big number 96, Lane Schmid fed off the momentum of Tallman's tying marker with a nifty goal of his own to put the Red Hawks up for good at 5:26 of the second frame.

The Hawks stretched their lead to 4-2 on a marker by Matt Eno. Eno scored with less than a minute left in the middle frame and the Hawks carried that momentum into the third playing a solid up-tempo and physical style.

Three minutes into the third frame Lakefield scored to make it 4-3. However loose lips sink ships and shortly after that tally Lakefield took a minor penalty that was compounded with another two for unsportsmanlike. Thou shalt not take the name of a ref in vain and Lakefield paid a high price for their undisciplined chattering.

Red Hawks cont'd... pg. 11...

Sports QUIZ

1. Name the only modern baseball player to not have a team logo on the cap of his Hall of Fame plaque.
2. In 2006, Jhonny Peralta set a Cleveland Indians franchise record for most home runs in a season by a shortstop (24). Whose mark did he break?
3. Name the last college football program before Southern Cal in 2004-05 to have different players win the Heisman Trophy in back-to-back seasons.
4. In 2005-06, Utah's Andrei Kirilenko became the fourth player in NBA history to average at least 15 points, eight rebounds, four assists and three blocks a game for a season. Name two of the other three to do this.
5. When was the last time the New York Islanders advanced past the first round of the NHL playoffs?
6. Who is the only player to win Olympic gold medals in both indoor volleyball and beach volleyball?
7. Tiger Woods has played 11-plus years on the PGA Tour entering 2008. How many times has he been PGA Player of the Year?

See answers next page...

Red Hawks cont`d...

... from pg. 10

It was their second yapping minor of the night and it gave the Hawks a crucial two-man advantage at a pivotal point in the third.

The Hawks Tyler Watson, whose rangy presence formed the bulwark of the Hawks physical style all night, finally connected on a ripped drive with 40 seconds remaining in the two-man advantage situation.

Down 5-3 late, Lakefield pulled their goalie and Watson was able to crank his second of the night into the empty net in the waning moments of the tilt.

That tally at 14:34 of the third gave the Red Hawks goals in the final minute of each of the three frames in the game.

Another big factor was the solid end-to-end play of Todd Simms. Simms flew largely under the radar all night, but was a factor by dint of his yeomanlike performance and unstinting work ethic.

Simms notched four assists in the game and was solid on both ends.

Yake had some nice words for senior goalie Ian Sachs in the corridor after the game.

"Nice stops in the third," said Yake to Sachs. Yake says that Sachs is and will be their goalie of record and he was pleased with the way his backstop stepped up to the plate after the sluggish opening frame.

"He's our goalie, he's played all of our games so far… he played well tonight," said Yake.

Yake added that Lakefield is a very good team.

"Penalties definitely hurt them and they took some undisciplined ones especially there in the third," said Yake.

Lakefield notched 18 minutes of sin bin time. Two talking minors led to two separate two-man down situations for Lakefield. The Red Hawks played physical but under control, notching only 8 minutes in penalties.

Lakefield had goals from Captain Adam Vatcher, Ryan Gahagan and Brett Pipher.

Yake said that his team will play a make-up game this coming Thursday, February 7 against IE Weldon. Game time is 2:15 at the Dysart Arena.

The Red Hawks have four games remaining in their season.

Yake, in the wake of this uplifting win against Lakefield, is hoping for a second or third place finish for his team.

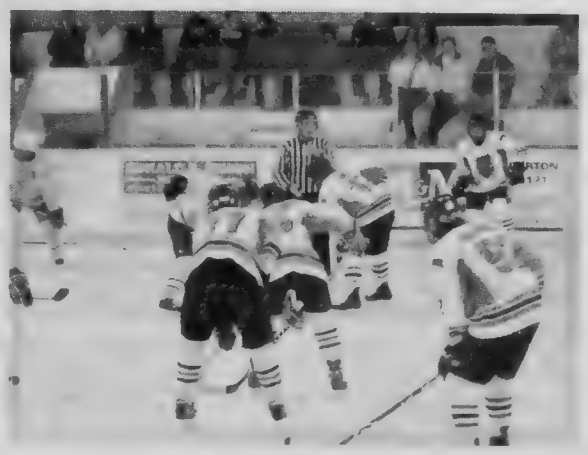
Seven teams from the 10-team Division AA High School ranks move on to the playoff round.

The first place team gets a bye and the seeding prompts sudden-death tilts, pitting 2 vs 7, 3 vs 6 and 4 vs 5.

At present, Holy Cross in Peterborough is on a run to finish in first place.

"We play Holy Cross in the last game of the season and that should be an interesting contest," smiled Yake.

The win on Monday night pushed the Red Hawk record to 6-2-2 on the season.



Sports Quiz Answers

1. Jim "Catfish" Hunter, who played for both the Athletics and the Yankees during his career.
2. Woodie Held hit 23 home runs in 1961.
3. Army -- Doc Blanchard in 1945 and Glenn Davis in 1946.
4. Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Bob Lanier and David Robinson.
5. It was 1993, when the Islanders lost in the conference final to Montreal.
6. Karch Kiraly (indoor volleyball, 1984, 1988; beach volleyball, 1996).
7. Nine times.

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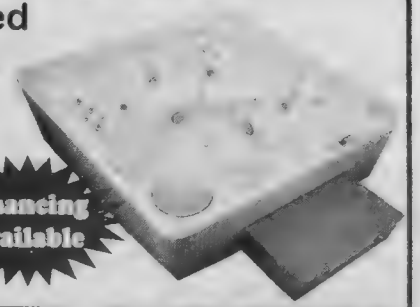

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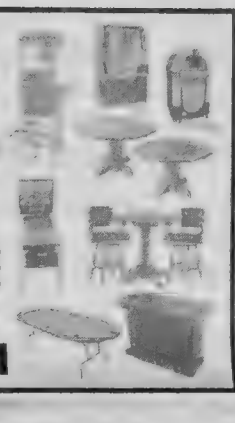

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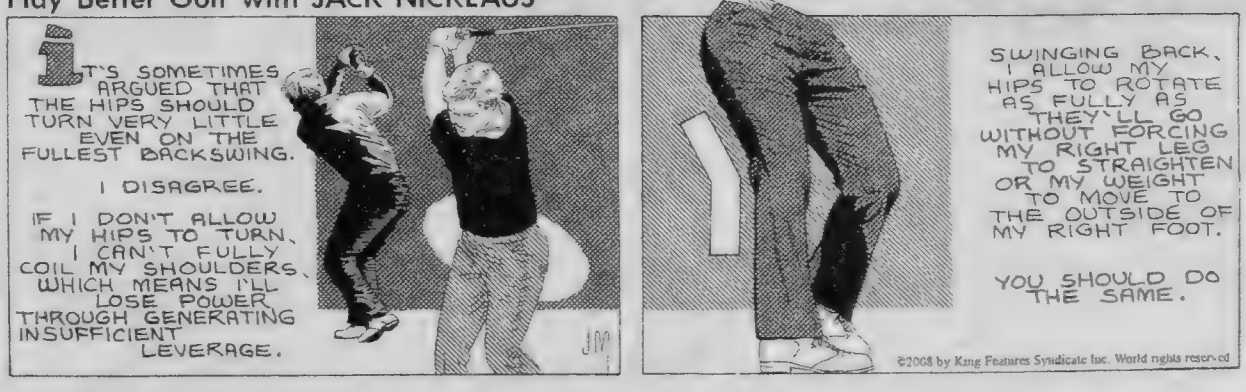

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Storm Hockey Playdowns

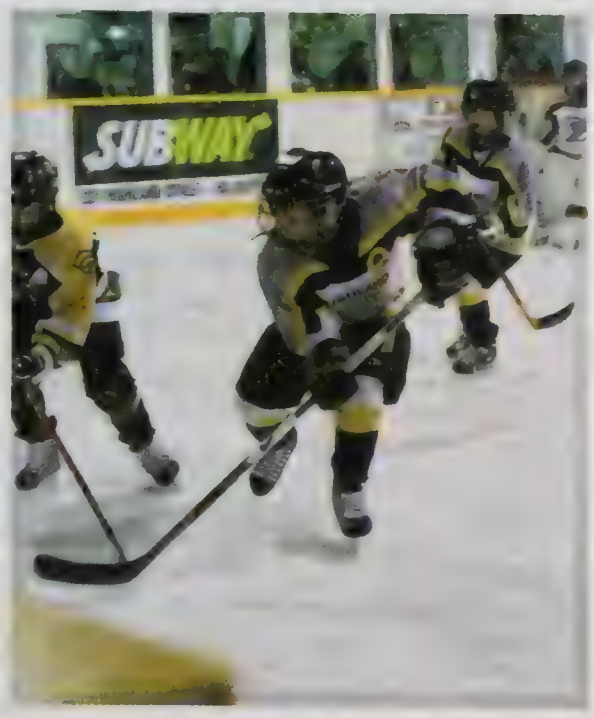
Six Highland Storm Rep teams swung into action at the Ontario Minor Hockey League regional Playdowns over the weekend with some great hockey, albeit with some very mixed results. First, the Midgets played two away games in North Frontenac, losing both by just one goal, 2 -1 and 4 – 3. They continue the best three out of five series at home this Friday in Minden at 8:30 and Saturday at 2:30 with the fifth game scheduled for North Frontenac on Sunday. The Bantams also had two tight games with the Campbellford Colts, losing both by 3 – 2 scores: their series also continues this weekend, Friday away, Saturday at home, and Sunday away.

Also in Campbellford, the Peewee team dropped its second game to the Colts by a 6 – 2 margin on Sunday. The day before at Dysart Arena in Haliburton the Peewees had lost a heartbreaker in O/T 3 – 2. This was a thrilling game, with the Storm going up 2 – 0 in the second period with both goals produced by the line of Spencer Trueman (1), Kieran Poropat (1), and Captain Nick Hunter. The Colts tied it up in the third with just three minutes remaining and in Overtime the puck glanced in off a skate to win it for the Colts, spoiling a very good performance by Storm Goaltender Jordan Hamilton. The Peewees travel back to Campbellford on Wednesday the 6th and with a win will face off at home on Friday, then away on Saturday.

In Orono on Sunday night the Novice team beat the local Leafs 5 – 3 and lead the series also by 5 points to 3. The Storm requires only one more tie or a win to advance. The Atom AE team hosted Wasaga Beach on Saturday, winning 1 – 0 with Forward Ethan Cooper scoring, while losing in O/T the next day 2 – 1, with Cooper again scoring. Austin McKay played two great games in goal for the Storm, as did his counterpart for Wasaga Beach. The action continues next weekend with an away game on Saturday and back home on Sunday.

The Atom As continued their winning ways with three wins over the Campbellford Colts, 7 – 4 in Haliburton and 6 – 3 on Sunday in the Colts' rink. The teams resumed their series Tuesday night in Campbellford, and the Storm was victorious in overtime 7 - 6 and will meet their quarter final opponents next week. We'll keep you posted. For exact times and location of the games please check out the bulletin boards at local grocery stores.

The Highland Storm Minor Hockey Association isn't limited to the Rep teams we've been covering the past two weeks. In fact, more kids play at the House League Level than in Rep. And there's also a very successful Girls Rep team, and organizers have hopes for another Girls Team for next year. In coming issues the County Voice will be bringing out readers up to speed on these programs as well.



Photos by Ben Carnochan

Top Left: Atom A Goalie Logan Churko

Top Right: Atom A Captain Curtis Ballantyne

Bottom Left: Pee Wee A Christopher Hall and Nathan Feir

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DREAMS BECOME REALITY AT HOME

Summer Games May Be Heading To Haliburton In 2010 Thanks To Efforts of Local Volunteers

Last summer Bob Nichol, Haliburton's LCBO Manager, former Dysart et al Councillor and long time community volunteer, wondered to himself: why couldn't Haliburton County host the annual Ontario Summer Games, held every August? Why don't we organize a proper, County wide committee to prepare a bid? And why don't we get started right now?

So now, just a few months later, Haliburton County Warden Eleanor Harrison has sent a Letter of Intent to Sports Alliance Ontario giving notice that the County will be submitting a full proposal at the end of March.

Community Volunteer - Bob Nichol

Earlier this month Nichol asked local businessman (and former Dysart Councillor) Dennis Casey to help him with the research for the proposal: Casey agreed, and the pair will submit their report to Council by March 26th.

"There are 26 events in all, and we think all but four of them can be held right here in the County," says Casey. "There's ample precedent for hosts having to go outside their jurisdiction, even the big cities, for some events, so that shouldn't weigh against us."

Events range from archery to waterskiing to kayak and canoe races, mountain biking, lacrosse and rifle and skeet shooting. "My job is to find the venues for each of the events. Some, like competitive swimming, (which requires a Olympic-size pool) will have to go elsewhere. We're going to be asking our Camps and many community organizations for help, as well of course as local Councils."

Casey envisions the 500 metre Kayak and Canoe sprints taking place on Head Lake, with the marathons running in two loops of 6 K each through Grass Lake and Kashagawigamog. He plans to have all the venues nailed down by the proposal deadline. Meanwhile Bob Nichol will be talking to the four Municipal Councils to enlist their support. It costs approximately $1,200,000 to host the games: half of that comes from Sports Alliance Ontario: each of the approximately 3000 athletes pay a registration fee of $70, which knocks another $210,000 off the total. Casey envisions another $200,000 coming from various corporate sponsorships, which leaves $200,000 to be divided among the Municipalities, on a pro-rated basis.

"When you realize that these 3000 athletes will bring another 1000 coaches and support staff, in addition to probably another 4000 in family and friends, that's 8000 people in the County during the second or third week of August," says Casey. The games would take place over three or four days, and would obviously be a terrific boost for the local economy. Over the next few years a lot of volunteer hours will be needed, and during the event itself up to 1000 volunteers will be working. But what a great event this could be for Haliburton, a ton of fun for all, volunteers and spectators alike.

Bob Nichol commented to The Voice that "the support of government and business leaders has been overwhelmingly positive. Everyone can see what an opportunity it could be for the County – it'll be lots of work, for sure, but," Nichol adds with a chuckle, "it's going to a lot of fun as well."

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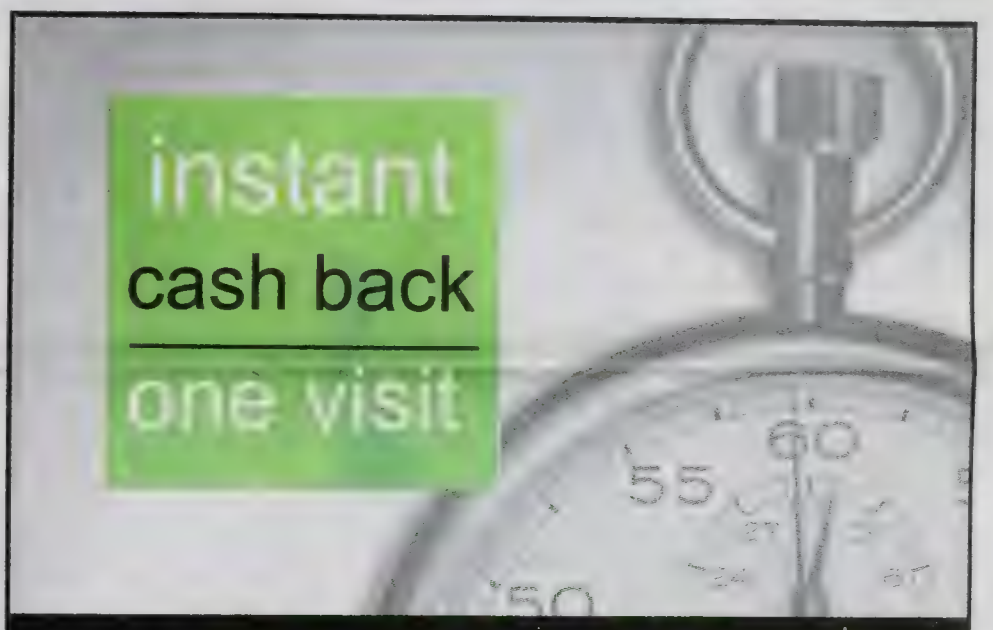

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Mirror Lounge Hosts Cottage Dreams
Old Country House Steps Up for Cancer Survivors

Terrance Gavan
Staff Reporter

With a firm nod to cottage country hospitality, ***Old Country House*** owner Sylvia Miller used the backdrop of the Mirror Lounge's grand opening to roll out some dreams.

"We planned the grand opening of the new Mirror Lounge for tonight (February 2, 2008) and we decided to blend two events into one evening," said Miller, during a break in the action last Saturday evening. The Old Country House restaurant is located at 172 Highland Street in Haliburton.

Miller and Cottage Dreams Founder and President Seana O'Neill used the evening to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Cottage Dreams initiative and introduce yet another fundraising venture for the Cottage Dreams cancer survivor project.

Seana O'Neill (left) and Sylvia Miller (right)

The Old Country House will be previewing 20 pieces of art for the Cottage Dreams Foundation on the walls of the restaurant and Mirror Lounge in the month of February. The donated art will be on site and interested patrons of the Old Country House will be able to purchase the artwork over the next 30 days or so. Several pieces were actually purchased during the course of the Grand Opening last Saturday. All proceeds from the sale of the displayed art will go to the Cottage Dreams Foundation.

Cottage Dreams Cancer Recovery Initiative is a registered charity that offers recent cancer survivors the opportunity to spend a week at a private, donated cottage to reconnect and rejuvenate with family and friends after successfully completing treatment.

O'Neill said that Miller's kind gesture is just another instance of local outflow of support for the burgeoning Cottage Dreams project. The donated artwork currently on display at the Old Country House is worth in excess of $10,000.

"Most of our support comes directly from this area," says O'Neill, but adds that the Cottage Dreams project is now beginning to receive attention on a national scale.

"This is the Fifth Anniversary of Cottage Dreams," says Seana. "In our first year of operation back in 2003 we placed our first six families and last year, in 2007, we managed to place over 160 families."

O'Neill says that she will be taking a business and educational trip to Alberta in the spring and at that time she will be looking into the feasibility of stretching Cottage Dreams into Alberta with an eye to operating a satellite of Cottage Dreams in the Calgary area.

"We are getting support and response from all across Canada," says O'Neill. Response from the cancer survivors and their families has been so positive that it has engendered a huge outpouring of empathy and support from a broad range of public and private interests.

She says that Mr. Patrick Brigham, a co-founder of Sunquest Vacations, graciously donated the artwork on display at the Old Country House. Mr. Brigham is a philanthropist and art collector and the pieces on display are from works he collected in the 1970s and 80s. O'Neill says that Mr. Brigham has been her mentor in this project and adds that his input, support and guidance has helped her in her quest to reach out to the growing multitude of cancer survivors.

She says that the project now envelops most of her waking hours.

"I am full on, 24-7, involved with Cottage Dreams," says O'Neill. "We have over 500 cottages involved in our inventory. Depending on weeks that we need, we pick and choose cottages from that inventory."

She says that most of the donors submit their cottages based on a five-day, Monday to Friday time frame. She adds that the welcoming response from over 500 cottage owners far outstrips the current list of cancer survivors.

"Some of the cottages we just can't use and they are considered for the next year," says O'Neill.

"The cottagers (visitors) come to us from a variety of sources," she adds. "The stipulation is that they must be survivors of cancer… the criteria is that they must have finished treatment, either chemotherapy or surgery."

Cottage Dreams has also sparked an outflow of corporate response. "American Express is now on board and we are also affiliated with Viceroy Homes," says O'Neill. "For every kit Viceroy sells we get $100 donated to the cause."

The annual Golf Tournament, last year held at Clublinks Wyndance, dropped over $105,000 into the Cottage Dreams coffer.

One Of Twenty Pieces of Donated Art

Later this month, on February 21 Cottage Dreams will be hosting another live fundraising art auction in Toronto. O'Neill says that all of the art on auction is created by cottage-country artists or reflects northern subjects in keeping with the Cottage Dreams motif. The silent auction will be held at the Parkview BMW Building at 1155 Leslie Avenue just north of Eglington in Toronto. Preview begins at 6:30 p.m. and the auction runs from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

While all of the press and response is gratifying, O'Neill says that respect for the families involved and their struggle with cancer and recovery is the all-encompassing bellwether of this initiative.

The Cottage Dreams website lists numerous testimonials from grateful cancer survivors and their families.

"My family and I cannot put into words how much we appreciated all Cottage Dreams has done for us. You have allowed us a chance to just forget about *'living with cancer'* and gave us a week of being a normal family. I can never thank you enough for this wonderful gift." *Website testimonial from a 2007 Cottage Visitor.*

Connecting with family and a return to normalcy. Nice perspective on a cottage dream.

The Cottage Dreams Foundation website can be found at *www.cottagedreams.org* and their phone number is 705-457-9100.

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Teachings of the Moon Calendar

Freelance
County Voice

A magnificent parallel row of Scots pines, and a just-waning moon, guided sixteen participants to Haliburton County's *Gaia Centre* on Thursday, January 24th for the *"Teachings Of The Moon Calendar,"* an evening workshop led by Haliburton resident Alice Miller. Since 2005, The Gaia Centre, situated in the old Barry Farm on Cameron Lake, has been a dynamic retreat for those seeking a means to revisit, explore, and discover connections between their spirituality, lifework, and sustainability. The Centre's premise is that the sacredness of Nature, the Earth, the Universe, and the Creation leads us to an environmental ethic that involves protecting Nature and the environment as we go about our daily lives.

Gordon Miller's Moon Calendar

Alice Miller is a full-status member of the Mattagami First Nation Band near Timmins, although she was raised in London, Ontario and later Northern Ontario. Her mother was French-Canadian and her father is of Cree, English, Ojibwe, and Scottish heritage. Growing up, Alice listened to the stories of her family: her father, Gordon Miller, did not speak often about traditional Native legends, but he did share family stories about the Mattagami Hudson's Bay Post that his grandfather ran and where his father traded furs and skins.

Bailey Renshaw (L), Dani Stahl (centre), Fay Wilkinson (R) - Highlands Community Playback Theatre- perform the story of the month

In his late fifties Gordon began to explore watercolour landscape painting. Eventually his paintings developed into an exploration of the Native oral tradition, transforming the oral stories of the Anishinawbe (the People) into visual interpretations. Gordon's pallet quickly expanded to include acrylic, mixed media, collage, printmaking, encaustic, and fabric. Oral stories are like living organisms: their essential nature is that the narrative is malleable, but the gist is always the same – a tradition central to Native culture. For Gordon, another means of storytelling had emerged, running in stride with a powerful revival of the Native community's interest in their own culture.

About his artwork, Gordon says, "I want to capture a feeling or idea, in order to make a connection with the viewer so that together we can explore the great Native culture and tradition. At one time almost destroyed, Native ways are experiencing a renaissance. I approach my work with no preconceived ideas or plans. After applying paint on canvas, an image may appear or an idea or feeling may be ignited which will beckon me to bring it to life. This is an exciting moment in my creative process. The colours, forms, and stories unfold and reveal both to my audience and me something new that we did not know before. My paintings are my response to the strength, splendour, beauty, and spirituality that I experience in my culture and traditions."

Twenty years after he began to paint professionally, Gordon Miller has become a well-known Ontario artist whose paintings are exhibited in juried shows, public galleries, museums, art shows, and private collections in Canada, the USA, and Europe. Celebrating his paintings month by month, the newly released *2008 Moon Calendar* was coordinated and written by his daughter Alice and designed by Andrea Hillo. The images in this calendar were the inspiration for the *"Teachings Of The Moon Calendar"* at the Gaia Centre.

The evening opened with smudging: from a gently smouldering sage bundle, cleansing smoke wafted over the participants. Alice offered a prayer to the Creator and then let the images in the Moon Calendar be her guide to tell the stories of the Anishinawbe and discuss the symbolism in her father's work. Each calendar page was contemplated and then complemented by a story, poem, meditation, or prayer. Alice helped participants "discover newness – that which was not known before – for ourselves and each other," and wove her own personal stories seamlessly into the narrative.

One of the images Gordon included in the calendar is called "Anishinawbe Warrior." There is a tradition of a powerful spiritual warrior that exists in all of us. It is there to guide you and serve you, so, as Alice says, it is "important to have awareness of the spirit warrior. If you have a thought, an idea, take it inside yourself and anchor it. Integrate it. The spirit warrior will either lift its shield to protect it, or will lower its shield so that you may act upon your idea. Listen to your warrior who is there to help us live our lives."

Paul Irwin & Carol Kilby of the Gaia Centre, with Alice Miller

The painting "Windigo" is about the "month of the starving moon" – the winter month when food is gravely scarce. Sometimes in the far north, it took all imaginable resources to survive and to provide for your family, and from these trials, the story of the Windigo arose. Four members of the *Highlands Community Playback Theatre,* Fay Wilkinson, Bailey Renshaw, Dani Stahle, and John Proctor joined to recreate the story of the Windigo using movement, music, and words – a powerful way to give the audience a better understanding of the trials of Native peoples during this immensely difficult time of year.

Explaining why the Gaia Centre was so excited to have the opportunity to welcome Alice to come and speak about the Moon Calendar and the stories of the Anishinawbe, co-founder Carol Kilby said, "[it] fits with whom we are striving to be. It's about remembering who we are. Why we as a species and planet are in a time of threat. We have forgotten who we are and we need to humble ourselves. Alice's teachings bring us back to that tradition … [and that is] a great gift."

You can view Mr. Miller's work at www.gordonmillerart.com. You can also order the Moon Calendar, prints, and original works via email at the website. Learn more about the Gaia Centre at www.gaiacentre.org.

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The Minden Hills Cultural Centre: An Exciting Year Ahead...

George Farrell
Staff Reporter

It's a pleasure to be writing this first County Voice column on Arts and Culture in Haliburton County. I want the column to be about all that we hold near and dear in terms of fine art, galleries, folk art, festivals, drama, music, food and drink, objects and places of uniqueness and beauty, and about the fascinating people who contribute artistically to our community.

As a first column we'll focus on the Minden Hills Cultural Centre, located at 174-176 Bobcaygeon Rd. The Centre represents much of what we are about both culturally and artistically. Perhaps Agnes Jamieson said it best. "... *I hope [the Centre] shall someday form a complex where history, books and paintings and unspoiled woods form a cultural centre for Minden and that the younger children and those yet unborn shall find beauty, knowledge and a sense of heritage to mould their thoughts and character.*"

Prophetic words, because what we have today reflects Agnes' vision. The Cultural Centre is made up of the Minden Hills Museum, The Agnes Jamieson Art Gallery, The Minden Hills Library, and now, the just-completed R.D. Lawrence Place. For those of you, especially in the far-flung corners of our vast County who have not visited the Centre, I urge you to, because there's something there for people of all ages.

Minden Hills Museum

The Minden Hills Museum's mission is to facilitate the preservation and understanding of our local heritage. Operating since 1984, the Museum consists of seven heritage buildings set on the grounds of the Centre. Stroll through the old school house, Bowron house, blacksmith shop, the Wee Kirk, barns and exhibit building, or put your friend in the stocks and pillories.

Minden's heritage derives from logging and mining as well as some agriculture. The many artifacts and videos held at the museum capture this past. Take part in this quaint collection and experience what life was like in years gone by.

R.D. Lawrence Place

R.D. Lawrence was a university-trained biologist, environmentalist and author of more than 30 books published in 26 countries in 15 languages. Almost every book he wrote was about Canada, its people, its animals and its environment. For more than 25 years, R.D. and his wife Sharon lived in Haliburton County and welcomed 10,000 visitors from around the world to the nature sanctuary they established. Ron was a mentor who regularly visited schools and inspired children with his talks. He was instrumental in the creation of The Wolf Centre at Haliburton Forest and welcomed opportunities to share his knowledge and philosophy with others.

The new R.D. Lawrence place, awaiting its official opening on Earth Day April 22, welcomes Sheryl Loucks as the first Programming Co-ordinator. Nestled into the trees at the entrance to the museum grounds, the R.D. Lawrence place will provide: a year-round tourist attraction; fun, interactive displays; opportunities to learn about nature and conservation; a unique opportunity to see and experience sustainable building features; a gathering place for receptions, events and workshops; and easy access to a nature trail and on-site labyrinth

The Minden Hills Library

The Library will shortly be undergoing extensive renovations, and will be take up much of what is now the Cultural Centre parking lot. Parking for up to 35 cars will be relocated behind the R.D. Lawrence Place. The Library will be getting an additional 5000 square feet of space, with a children's room, resource rooms, and a much larger area for books.

During the course of the next year there will be occasion to feature each aspect of the Cultural Centre, and the people involved, but for now we'll concentrate on the upcoming events and exhibitions at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, But I'd be remiss if I didn't say a word about Dianne Graham, who's shortly leaving her post as the Director of the Cultural Centre. Dianne has been an inspiration to me and many others who were looking for an artistic 'anchor' and supporter. She was a founding member of, (and gave immediate credibility to) a committee we started that eventually became Highland Media Arts (HMA). Because of her assistance and guidance many other Haliburton creative people have seen their dreams become reality. She has been, and remains, a welcoming, steadying beacon of optimism. Dianne will stay in her post until April of this year. Her replacement will have a very tough act to follow. Dianne, we'll miss you.

The Agnes Jamieson Gallery

Shakespeare Flowers

The Gallery is currently showing a collection of 75 framed wood block prints by Gerard Brender a Brandis. These prints creatively document the flowers that William Shakespeare discusses in his plays and poems. Each flower image is accompanied with text by F. David Hoeniger, Professor Emeritus, Victoria College, University of Toronto. The text includes excerpts from Shakespearean plays and poems, along with medical and magical botanical explanations. This is a unique exhibit closes February 9, so you don't have much time to catch it.

Canadian Folk Art From The Collection of Susan A. Murray

This show simply has a *'must see'* tag attached, and can be appreciated by everyone. It was created for exhibition in the Canadian Embassy in Washington D.C. in conjunction with the Beaverbrook Art Gallery in New Brunswick. Web sites and an excellent accompanying booklet reveal colorful, touchingly primitive, wooden carvings and paintings of everyday people and their animals doing everyday things in our 'not too distant past.'

Here's a quote from the Cultural Centre's handout: '*Folk artists are largely self taught artists outside the mainstream, outside Canada's social, economic and political elites. They are not subject to the trends and fashions that shape other art. The biographies of these extraordinarily powerful artists tell tales of hardship, of lives lived without the economic privileges we take for granted. Folk art is full of energy, joy, love of life, colour, and often a rich sense of place with a dash of humour.*'

Cultural Centre

cont'd... pg. 17...

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Cultural Centre cont'd...

... from pg. 16

"It's our heritage. It's the epitome of Canadian Art. It's who we are." Says Curator Laurie Carmount. "If no one knew what Canada was, you'd show them this art work with a jar of maple syrup." She laughs her delightful laugh, and then says, "This is our roots, as folk art is from any country."

Folk Art collector Susan A. Murray whose collection will be on display, has a cottage on Gull Lake, and to add to her collection she apparently purchased several of the locally made banners by Minden area artists, that were on display on the streets of Minden this past summer. Susan A. Murray will be present at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery on Saturday March 8th @ 1 p.m. to talk about her passion for folk art. The show commences on February 12 and goes to April 26. Once again this is a *'must see'* exhibition.

World Movie Premier

Forget about Disney filming in the Highlands. We have something much more important to local interests, and it's the movie premier of playwright Michael Fay's original musical, *Last of the Great White Pine* (GWP).

The musical was performed at the Cultural Centre, outside, on the Museum grounds last summer, to very strong reviews. The play was also video taped at the dress rehearsal, in front of an audience, and now the movie of the musical is ready for viewing. As well as the musical itself, a 'making of' video documentary was also produced, which takes the viewer behind the scenes. The 'making of' and the musical itself, both produced by Highlands Media Arts will be shown on the big wall of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.

As I had a hand in the production of both video pieces it's not an unbiased opinion you're getting here, but I will say that the video productions show the sheer joy and brilliance of our youthful talent, which seemed to inspire the entire cast into giving unforgettable performances. Both pieces are a pleasure to behold, and it's very interesting to see how individual actors shine and perform on stage, and in the more relaxed atmosphere of a documentary.

Highland Media Arts doesn't yet have all the technical toys required to overcome the difficulties of working with a large cast in an outside environment, but the performances, costumes and music more than make up for these shortcomings. Much praise is due to Chris King, an up-and-coming local film maker, who had a large part in the productions; Tammy Rae, editor and intrepid leader of HMA; the cast and crew of GWP; writer Michael Fay, co-ordinating producer Fay Martin; and Heather McLeod, who wrote the excellent songs. The movies were financed by the Haliburton County Development Corporation, and they will be shown on February 8th at 7 p.m. Admission is by donation.

There are many other fascinating exhibits and events coming up at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, the Minden Hills Museum, The Minden Hills Library, and the R.D. Lawrence Place. Keep an eye on this column for more news from these elements of the Cultural Centre.

Pictured: Laurie Carmount curator of the Agnes Jamieson Gallery, shows the booklet from upcoming Folk Art Show Artwork from the upcoming Folk Art Exhibit at the Agnes Jamieson Gallery.
Art work from the current Shakespeare Flowers show.
Sheryl Loucks - Programing Co-ordinator of the R.D. Lawrence Place. (shown in background)

Murray Fearrey, Dysart Reeve: The Year Ahead

Dysart et al Reeve Murray Fearrey was first elected to Council way back in 1971, and apart from a few years off in the 1980s, has served as either a Councillor or Reeve ever since. He's seen the role of the Municipality change dramatically in that time: "Council used to be responsible for little more than roads, recreation, by-law enforcement and planning. Since the downloading of services in the 1990s our responsibilities have increased by leaps and bounds to include some social services, bridges, housing, ambulances, and so on. We have at least three times the responsibilities we used to have – but my frustration is that we have little authority to deal with them. Property assessment is one example – we're responsible, but the Province writes the rules: source water's another example, building codes another."

The two major issues that have faced Dysart over the past year will continue to be the focus in 2008. "Without question, waste management and development will be front and centre," says Fearrey. "Last year I was really pleased to see the Silver Beach Development of town homes on Kashagawigamog begin to become a reality. And this year I think we'll see at least one major condominium proposal come to Council as well as a very exciting assisted living development. And there should be four or five subdivision developments surfacing as well. It's essential that more housing is made available – and at a price that is within reach of our population. We just received our first building permit application for a cottage with a projected cost of over $1 million – which is great for those who can afford it. But what are ordinary families to do? That's a big challenge for us. I see the primary responsibility of Municipal government as finding a balance between the needs of the less fortunate and the demands of the more affluent. And housing has to be a big concern."

A major cottage development, for example, is in the works for Haliburton and Percy Lakes (see page one story in this issue) involving over 100 lots – with prices estimated to be in the $500,000 range.

Fearrey is also deeply concerned about the lack of high speed Internet access across the County, which has the potential to stymie development as well as putting many residents and businesses at a serious learning and competitive disadvantage. The towns and villages are reasonably well served, with service available from private companies such as Candlelight Broadband, W3 Connex, and Bell Sympatico. But the Bell high speed service stops within a few kilometres of village centres and both Candlelight and W3 Connex need greater population concentrations to justify further tower construction. The Xplorenet satellite dish system is also available, but installation costs are significant. So thousands of cottagers and permanent residents are currently being left out in the cold, dependent either on dial-up or dish installation. "This simply must be a top priority for us," says Fearrey. "We need the federal and provincial governments to make a serious commitment to ensure that we have high speed available County-wide. It's pretty difficult for Bell, for example, to justify the $200,000 they say it costs them for every five kilometres of line – but this is where government surely has a role." Fearrey is spearheading discussions with the province and the feds to get the job done as soon as possible.

But for sure, waste management, development, and of course potholes will never be far from any Municipal Council agenda.

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Razzamatazz

Lyn Winans
Photojournalist

It was difficult to overlook "Razz" upon entering HHSS for the Razzamataz concert at Northern Lights Theatre last Sunday. The large, furry, affectionate mascot was there to greet all comers, young and old. Not all of the 160 fans gave Razz the reception he'd hoped for though. Some of the toddler set appeared to have misgivings about cavorting with such a massive, albeit friendly, ape, but with persistence and lots of patience, Razz eventually won most of them over.

The fast paced show, second of this year's concert series, was performed by the *Stylamanders*, a duo consisting of Mark Kersey (keyboards and 1984 Canadian yo-yo champ) and Paul Gibson (guitarist, actor and song writer). The pair kept the audience involved, and had the kids acting out lyrics such as Grab, Pull, Buckle Up, from a song which reinforces (in a tot-friendly way) the use of seat belts.

Although primarily a kid-focused show, the *Stylamanders* didn't overlook the adults. The performers voiced their appreciation for how many dads were in attendance given that it was Super Bowl Sunday..... very stiff entertainment competition to say the least..

"Goldilocks and the Three Canadian Bears", the next concert in the Razzamataz series, will be performed March 2nd at the Northern Lights Theatre. Make sure to say hello to Razz on your way in!

The Three Rules of Dogsledding As Explained To Mercer

By now you have hopefully tuned into CBC on Tuesday and watched Rick Mercer's highlights of Haliburton Highlands recent Dog Sled Derby.

Canadian comic legend Rick Mercer received a quick course of Dogsledding 101 from Jamaican Damion Robb just before their mushing sawoff at Delta Pinestone Resort just a couple weekends ago.

Robb was still chuckling about his chance encounter and subsequent afternoon showdown with Mercer during an interview at the resort that evening.

"He did pretty well… we didn't know what to expect, but he handled the sled very well for a novice," laughed Robb.

And most important adds Robb: "He didn't forget what I taught him before our race."

According to Robb, Mercer received the quick initiation just before Mercer's sled was fitted with a steady cam. In this case steady cam may prove oxymoronic.

Jamaican entrepreneur Danny Melville, the inspiration behind the Jamaican Dogsled Team, could hardly contain himself.

"Robb gave him the three rules of dogsledding," said Melville, who owns Chukka Caribbean Adventures, a pan-Caribbean tour operation.

"Rick is a very funny guy," added Melville. "Robb and he seemed to click."

Oh yes.

The three rules of dogsledding?

According to Robb they're the same three rules that his coach and now racing partner Minnesotan Ken Davis passed on to him, just before he started racing on the dryland circuit last October.

"They are very simple rules," laughed Melville, the Jamaican lilt gaining momentum as it moves to the punch line. "But quite important."

"Rule number one: Don't let go of the sled," explained Melville.

"Rule number two: Don't let go of the sled. And Rule Number Three: Don't let go of the sled," said Melville.

Let's just say that no dogs were hurt in the filming of this *Rick Mercer Report* segment.

If you missed the broadcast, you can see it online at www.cbc.ca/mercerreport - it's under his latest videos. It is also going to air again on Friday.

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Minden Merchants Association Update

George Farrell
Staff Reporter

People who have been avidly following the progress of Minden's revitalization have been aware of the Minden Merchants Revitalization Committee(MMRC). It has been the interim organization that has been working diligently over the past year to bring the concept of a united merchants association to a place where it could be a viable entity, with a real say in the community.

It might seem strange to say that the demise of an organization is a testament to its success, but such is the case with the MMRC. The MMRC is no more because it accomplished what it set out to do, and that was to bring a sense of pride to the community in order to get action started on the way to re-vitalization. The merchants and individual volunteers, working independently have done a great job. Minden looks cleaner, the banners were a great success, several owners have opted to improve facades, and hanging flower baskets were spectacular this year. Merchants and the populace 'bought-in' to the need for improvement in the downtown core.

The Need For a Merchants Organization

Although additional improvements can still be made on an individual owner basis, the need for a merchants organization is now more significant than ever. The changes that have been made are for the most part cosmetic, and were cited by the MMRC as immediate steps necessary to "get the ball rolling."

However, only with the formation of an organized merchants association can funds be accessed, in order to not only maintain the cosmetic improvements already in place, but also to move economic development forward by way of increased promotion, improvement of existing events, and the implementation of additional events that can take advantage of the great things that Minden has to offer.

A true business association can apply for government funding, and funds raised through the association may be matched by the municipality. Moreover, an association can act on behalf of an individual merchant who might have a grievance. An association gives merchants a strong voice in the community.

At the final MMRC meeting, held on August 28/07 chair Deborah Lyons, stated "that it was now time to move forward and form a business association." With those words the MMRC came to an end. Reeve Mc Mahon thanked the efforts of the various organizations and individuals who had helped in starting the revitalization process. He cited the proposed development of 72 homes in the Highlands Gate Development, proposed expansion of the Beaverbrook Golf Course, and the imminent arrival of Canadian Tire, and Mark's Work Warehouse, as very good reasons why a strong association would help to make Minden a destination flagship. He also stated that council was very supportive of proceeding with an association.

Councilor Bill Obee mentioned the creation of the R.D. Lawrence Place and the expansion of the Minden Library as other points of interest that could be optimized by a business association. he also noted the need to work co-operatively with merchants downtown, and on Highway 35.

Judy Coward (OMAFRA) has been an important contributor of information as well as a facilitator in moving things forward. At the Aug 28th meeting she discussed the support from council and recommend that an interim committee be formed to work with the township in preparing a by-law to establish a Board of Management for an as yet un-named business association. And so it was, and an interim committee was formed. The interim committee consists of several members of the defunct MMRC, Minden area merchants, and members of council.

The Work of the Interim Committee

It was noted that once the interim committee has completed the bylaw, a public meeting would be held, and once accepted by the majority of businesses, it would be forwarded to council for their consideration. Which brings us up to the first meeting of the interim committee, which was held on December 12th. At that very important meeting the details of a 'purpose' or mandate were discussed, as well as the structure of a Board of Management, and other items such as membership. The requisite formation of a by-law was also discussed at the Dec 12 meeting, and what that by-law might need to contain in order to move towards making the business association a committee of council.

New government legislation in forming business associations now makes it much easier to expand existing boundaries, and to setting levees based on different criteria than was formerly the case. These and other items on the agenda were debated, and the one thing that became clear was that more input from Minden area merchants was required before anything was 'written in stone.'

The Minden Community Business Association

During the course of meetings on Jan 14 and the 21st the name was finally decided upon and approved. *The Minden Community Business Association*. The MCBA-it has a nice ring to it. Councilor Bill Obee, who is likely to be a non-voting council representative on the MCBA executive when it's formed, said recently that "all the work that was done before by the MMRC showed the need and the interest there was in promoting the community of Minden Hills." Bill mentioned that although it's probably too early to start talking about things like"special events," the committee will definitely be working from a base that has "been done before" He stressed that things would take time in coming together. "We want to make sure that we're going forward with the right information. There are ongoing discussions about boundaries with local area merchants represented on the committee, and the committee is still getting feedback from merchants in the community. "There has been no final conclusion." says Bill. "We don't want to make them too wide or too narrow. We are also discussion the feasibility of having associate members from businesses outside the designated boundary. Another subject being discussed is the proposed levy. Apparently it has been set. " I don't think we'll scare anybody off. It'll be enough to accomplish things, and it'll be matched by council." Unlike some previous merchants associations which varied its levy depending on the size of the business, the new levy will be equal, across the board. This will prevent business owners from feeling that they have a bigger say because their levy is bigger.

> " The Initiatives Taken by Council are very Positive and the Ongoing Relationship will be Beneficial"
> Dave Dollo, Dollo's IGA

The next step is an upcoming meeting with Municipal Affairs and Housing. "There's now a brand new business association process," Bill reveals. Since January of '07 new legislation makes it easier to form associations, so that we're not hamstrung by legislation anymore. The ministry people are just learning the process too, and in the meeting with them we want to make sure that were abiding by the rules, and we want to make sure that we're not re-inventing the wheel." Under the new legislation the municipalities of Milton and Gravenhurst are the only two new centres so far, to take advantage and the MCMA wants to learn from their experiences.

It's the ease of working with municipalities that makes the new legislation appealing. Dave Dollo, of Dollo's IGA, who is a MCMA member, says "the initiatives taken by the council are very positive, and the ongoing relationship will be very beneficial. The matching dollars, and working closely with council was not there before, like it is now. It should make it a lot easier to get permission for events in the future, and for using specific parts of the community, road closures, and the like. The merchants that I've spoken to have been 'gung- ho' and are pretty positive, and want to be kept informed."

One thing that has been decided upon has been the number and formation of the executive. There will be a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Director, 2 Directors at Large, and 1 Non-Voting Council Representative. The Municipality will be looking after the book keeping and swill supply secretary services when needed. The forming of an executive "will happen sooner rather than later, next month hopefully," says Bill Obee. "Our objective is to be up and running by the spring."

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Cutoff date is noon Monday Feb 11th

Sports This Week

Boys Basketball

- Boys Basketball, Kawartha West Play-offs Thursday February 7th 9:00 am – 5:00 pm

Girls Volleyball

- Senior Girls Volleyball Qualifier @ PHSS Wed, Feb 13, 2008 - All Day Tournament

Red Hawk Hockey

- Girls Hockey Tournament – 2 Days @ North York Monday February 11th and Tuesday Feb 12th 9am – 5pm
- Boys Hockey vs CDSS Home Game @ Dysart Arena - Monday, Feb 11th7:15 pm
- Boys Hockey vs CWSS at CWSS Tuesday, Feb 12 - afternoon game

Wrestling

- Kawartha Wrestling @ HHSS - Wed. Feb 13 - 10:00 AM - 5:00pm

Nordic Skiing

- Kawartha Nordic Skiing @ Glebe Park – Sir Sanford Fleming College February 13, 2008 9:15 AM -5:00 pm

Curling

Minden Curling Club

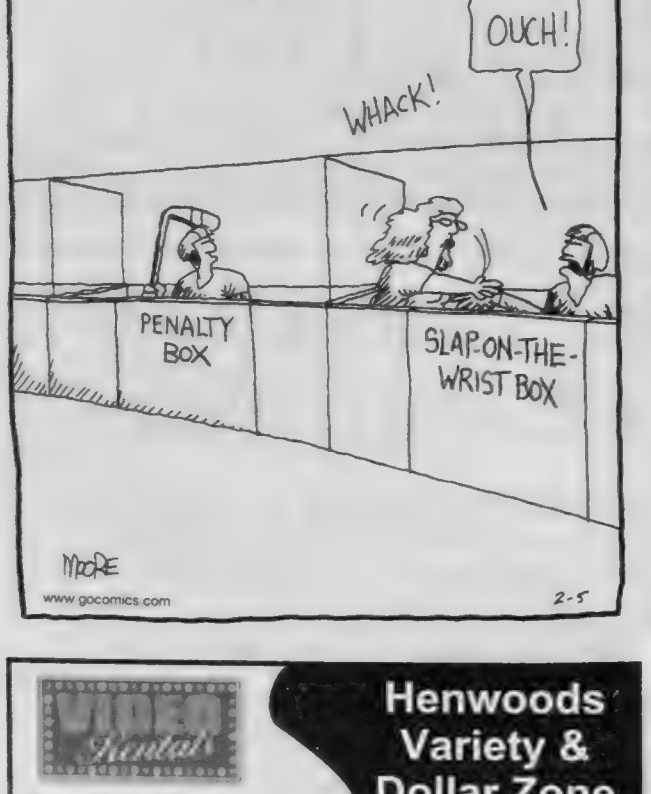
- Minden Carquest Bon spiel Senior Men (50+) Tuesday February 12th
- Rockbuster Bonspiel (Men) February 15th - 17th For more info contact Steve Robson 286-4724

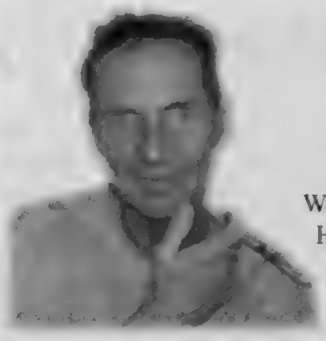
Haliburton Curling Club

- Ladies Tournament of Hearts Saturday February 9th
- Jack Bassett Mixed Wednesday February 9th

Wilberforce Curling Club

- Don Ferreau Ladies Valentines Speil February 15th & 16th For more info contact Doug Stephen 448-1411





Leafs Still Have Hope

Harold Ballard's Baby

Terrance Gavan
Sports Editor

Sports Column

We live in an enclave here in Haliburton Highlands where hockey fortunes rise and sag with the venerable Toronto Maple Leafs.

Thankfully, I am immune to all of the inner angst, sturm and drang of this woebegone Leafy nation.

I grew up in Ottawa, and committed to the Montreal Habitants in the heady days of Bowman, Lafleur, Robinson, JC Tremblay, Kenny Dryden, Pocket Richard, Steve Shutt and, yes Toronto, even Frank and Peter Mahovolich.

I covered the epic second coming of the Senators when I was managing editor of the Kanata Kourier and Kanata Standard newspapers back in the early nineties and shifted loyalties just after Montreal won the Cup in 1993.

I shake my head today as I listen to local Leaf fans bemoan their fate. Always asking… what's wrong with the Leafs? I feel for you, good Leaf faithful.

And… I bring you hope.

Some years back I ran into Harold Ballard in the Science Faculty of the University of Manitoba. I was Sports Editor of the university paper at the time and I was bemused to see Harold deep in the bowels of the genetic research section of the Dr Howard B Peckinpah Science Building.

Two very imposing male orderlies accompanied Harold and a very strident looking goateed man with a medical bag was leading the procession.

It was 1988, just two years before his passing and Harold did have a few cannons rolling loosely around his upper deck in his waning years.

"Harold," I shouted hastily. "What the heck are you doin' here?" I snooped a scoop.

"Top secret, top, top, top secret. Who the hell are you?" asked Harold, while one of the 'roid-enhanced orderlies tried to block my view.

"I'm Terrance Gavan, Harold," shoving around the orderly. "And I'm sports editor of the Manitoban. I was just wondering if I could have a quick few minutes with you."

Harold's blank stare snapped to bright eyes. "Off the record?"

I was a university reporter, I was on a $500 honorarium and, I had my fingers crossed. So I said, "Sure Harold, your call baby."

"See that bag," said the venerable Prince Hal, nodding to the black leather bag at the goateed man's side.

I nodded, trying to inch my way around the imposing mainframe of the menacing orderly.

"In there we have deliverance… salvation… the Final Solution… the Maple Leafs rise from the ashes." The steel eyes glinted eerily in the dimly lit bowels of the genetic lab's narrow corridor. Understand that I wasn't in the science faculty, but this happened to be the shortest route to the gym at the Max Bell Center.

"And what might that be," I asked, feeling just a little more uncomfortable with each passing minute.

"Donations. Gifts from the gods of hockey. Orr, Beliveau, Lafleur, Perreault, Lemieux and Gretzky… go ahead doctor, tell him… tell him of our glorious plans." Harold's steely glint was slowly being replaced by a distinctly myopic glaze as he pointed me toward the goateed man with the medical bag.

"Allow me to introduce myself," said the stranger. "Dr. Beethoven B Strangelove OBGYN and Fellow in ze' Institute of Genetic Studies in Bonn. Ve' must has your vord' zat' zis' is given in strictest confidence… ya?"

"Of course Doc, you have my word." My crossed fingers were developing cramps.

"In zis' bag, in various test tubes ve' ***do*** has the donated semen from all of zese' hokey players zat' Meester Ballard haz' mentioned. Ve' ist using ze' labs here at Peckinpah Institute to marinate all of zis' together into potent amalgam of all of zese' players finest traits in hokey playing… zis' ist produce ein Zeitgeist Uberhokey Phenom!"

Prince Hal leaped back into action, the glaze now replaced with a brimming urgency.

"Hah! Hah! Hear that! They laughed at me. They laughed at Punch and they mocked us. But we're having the last laugh. They threw me in jail. Screw you Ron Ellis… don't need ya'! Tell him doc… tell him the best part." Prince Hal's pallor was donning that familiar apoplectic crimson tinge.

"Aha. Ya'. All of zis' ist being conjoined mit' den' frozen eggs of zis' Barbara Ann Scott," said Strangelove.

"HAH! Hear that?" popped Harold. "The very best figure skater Canada ever produced… ah Barbara… lovely Barbara… the key to the whole plan. I'll show em' all. The Super Leaf, style, grace, power and speed… hah… heee… take that Alan Eagleson… ya' gutless crook!"

The second orderly inched nearer to his boss, the vague outline of a syringe etched against his white smock. Prince Hal was by now in full rant and tipping toward mild dementia.

But I had to ask.

"Harold… what if it's a girl?"

The ensuing scream curdled the stucco corridors of the Peckinpah Institute and only subsided after the orderly's valium-tipped stiletto found its mark.

Sleep tight Sweet Prince.

Epilogue:

I have it on good authority that *Bobby Guy Gilbert Jean Mario Rocket Scott-Ballard* has just celebrated his 15th birthday. His clone copyright is listed as sole property of the Toronto Maple Leafs and he will be eligible to play for the Leafs in 2010.

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Those Long and Happy Snow Days!

Mother Nature conspired to give Haliburton students a mini mid-term holiday last week with snow days on Tuesday and Wednesday and a Professional Development day for teachers and principals on Thursday. For parents, children, caregivers and employers who are often frustrated by a circumstance over which they have absolutely no control and that can turn an entire business or personal day upside down, we thought we'd let you know just how the system works.

The Trillium Lakelands District School Board's (TLDSB) transportation department, in consultation with school bus operators, makes the final decision as to whether or not the buses will run on any given day by about 6:00 am. A snow day is declared if the weather is deemed to be severe enough to make bus travel too dangerous for the children. This automatically means no buses will run morning or afternoon. The decision can also apply to just one of the Counties that make up the TLDSB area, which includes Haliburton, City of Kawartha Lakes, and Muskoka. The schools themselves are obligated to remain open, and teachers are also obligated to go to work. If conditions are truly terrible, the teachers obviously have some leeway to take care of their own safety. As well, if they live closer to another TLDSB school that's affected, they can also show up there to help.

For most schools, the vast majority of students simply stay home, and are hopefully looked after by their parents, grandparents, siblings or care givers. In Haliburton the Wee Care child care facility also closes for snow days. But if you can get your kids to school yourself an entire day of academic activities takes place. At J.D. Hodgson Elementary in Haliburton last week, almost 30 children showed up and had a full day of academic activities including math, social studies, computer studies and gym. In Wilberforce, Acting Principal Barb Davies had no kids on the first day, and just one on the second – when the mom realized her child would be the only one there, they both went home. Davies comments that "it can be a really valuable time for our teachers to work on curriculum, lesson planning, paper marking etc. It certainly isn't a lost day for the staff." J.D. Hodgson Principal Traci Hubbert agrees: "It can be a very useful day for staff – almost like another Professional Development day, particularly now with Board Assessments coming up."

School officials also want to assure parents that teachers will find a way make up the lost lessons over the next few weeks – so no one falls behind.

But remember, if you can get your child to his or her school, they will be looked after, and even educated (!) until normal dismissal time in the afternoon.

Village Green is harldy the way to describe the look of Minden lately. But according to the groudhog - it's not long now before spring !!

Photos By: Lyn Winans

Have Your Say... VOX POP

We asked people what it was like having three straight days of no school thanks to bus cancellations and a PA day?

I went skiing. That's about it. – Emily Glecoff

It's hard. I can understand that they want to be safe as well as not drive in the snow. Even though I had to drive in the snow! – Jennifer Tkach

I had a friend over and we went tobogganing at Terry Griffin hill. I went on the computer too.
– Christopher McKee

I got to play all the games I wanted to and I got to play in the snow.
– Taylor Urquhart

I played video games all day.
– Dusan Zverina-Newll

I didn't mind it. I look forward to them (kids) going to school. I work at night so I get sleep during the day. – Tammy Leginj

We enjoyed it. My husband didn't work because of the weather, so it was good to spend some quality family time together.
– Geri Woudstra

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Dear Abby
by Abigail Van Buren

TOLERANCE FOR OTHERS' BELIEFS COULD HELP HEAL WORLD WOES

DEAR READERS: Today's column is a continuation of a previous column, with more of your thought-provoking answers to my question, "What do you think is society's greatest problem?" Read on:

DEAR ABBY: You won't print this, but in my opinion organized religion has a lot to do with why the world is so badly messed up.

Although most religions espouse values of kindness, generosity and good works, in practical application, it seems that religion is used more often to divide "them" from "us," and to give people yet another way to discriminate against one another. It isn't limited to wars between different religions; one need only look back a few years to see different sects of Christians killing and terrorizing each other in Northern Ireland. And look at the state of religious warfare today. Muslims are murdering and terrorizing other Muslims in Iraq just for belonging to a different sect of Islam.

If people were more concerned with doing the right things in THIS world, rather than preoccupying themselves with what is going to happen in the NEXT one, our world would be a better place. -- KIM IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR KIM: Your letter has merit, and that's why I printed it.

DEAR ABBY: I have been in this world a little more than 14 years, and to me, the main problem in our world today is lack of forgiveness. We hold onto our anger and hate, thinking it makes us who we are, but really it destroys us.

Abby, I am not naive. I know not all people are good, but I believe people's actions depend on their circumstances and past, and we cannot judge them solely on what they do. If we could forgive people's bad decisions and move on, the world would be a better place. -- KATIE IN JAMESVILLE, N.Y.

DEAR ABBY: It's the "me first" mind-set that is illustrated by the guy who cuts you off in traffic, the young woman who rushes past the elderly woman with a cane entering a public restroom to grab the larger handicap stall when all the others are empty, the young mother who continues shopping with a screaming toddler having a tantrum -- oblivious and not even trying to control it.

It's the co-worker who rises to the top by telling lies or taking credit for the work of others, or the person who cheats you in a business deal.

The bottom line? We have made evil politically correct and faith unmentionable. -- MARTHA IN CRESCENT CITY, CALIF.

DEAR ABBY: I think the problem is ignorance -- ignorance of the fact that we are faced with choices every day and can act on them for better or worse. We are ignorant of our own empowerment when it comes to the environment, how we treat others, our society's history that at times leads us down the same path toward war and the destruction of others. It's ignorance of the plight of our neighbors, our community, our country and around the world. There is woeful ignorance of our government, that it services the people, that its prime mission is the safety and well-being of the people, and our own civil rights.

Merlin of King Arthur's round table said, "The curse of man is that he forgets." If only we won't forget that we are loving beings, capable of great love beyond measure, if only we would not ignore so much, but remember just a little. -- MAURICE IN ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.

DEAR READERS: Today (Feb 7th) marks the lunar New Year. It's the Year of the Rat. Those born in the Year of the Rat are imaginative, charming and generous to those they love. Gung Hay Fat Choy!

Introducing Harlan

Harlan offers a candid, informative and honest advice from a male perspective, as well as a unique forum that centers on the issues affecting younger readers.

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Help Me, Harlan!

BY HARLAN COHEN

Dear Harlan,
My boyfriend broke up with me in the beginning of December. He told me that it's not working out and he needs space. Recently he has been calling me and saying how much he misses me and how he's made a mistake in breaking up with me, but as I continue talking to him he tells me he doesn't want to lead me on. I'm still very much in love with him, what should I do?
Broken Up

Dear Broken Up,
In the spirit of Rejection Awareness Week, let's get right into it. You're afraid of losing him and being alone. What you should tell him is: "Either you call me your girlfriend or you don't call me and tell me you miss me. You can't have it both ways. I love you, but I love myself enough to not take up anymore time with someone who doesn't appreciate me. So only call me if you want to get together with me. I miss you too, but I can't hear about it." There are thousands of men who will appreciate you. Rejecting the ones who can't give you what you want means taking a risk. But if you know there are options out there and you know how to take risks, the biggest risk would be wasting your time with someone who can't give you what you want.

Dear Harlan,
I am 18 years old and a senior in high school. I broke up with my boyfriend. I was only with him for three weeks before he cheated on me. Now, a month later, he still won't leave me alone. I asked him not to follow me to classes, not to talk to me and not to call me. It went so far that I had to change my cell-phone number and tell him I broke my cell phone. The school system does not solve the problem. I just want to go to school and not have him follow me around all day. Please tell me how to get rid of my ex-boyfriend stalker.
Stalked

Dear Stalked,
Stalkers are stuck in the deepest state of Rejection Denial. Rejection Denial is a dangerous place where someone thinks everyone he likes should like him. When someone doesn't like him, there's a BIG problem. But the problem is that he NEVER gives people permission to not like him. He can't accept The Universal Rejection Truth of Dating and Relationships (the fact that not everyone he likes will always like him). He will NEVER allow you to reject him. The way to rid yourself of him is to starve him of attention. Once he's hungry enough, he'll find someone else to force himself upon. Tell the principal; tell the authorities; tell your parents; and tell the people closest to you. Avoid him. If he cared about you, he'd give you permission to not want him, but he's too deep in denial to do that.

Health Services Board of Directors Meeting

At the HHHS Board of Directors meeting which took place on Thursday Jan 24th in the Board Room of the Minden Hospital, Chair Jeanne Anthon and the rest of the directors formally approved the appointment of Murray Fearrey to the board. Murray, who as Warden of the County, and Reeve of Dysart et al, needs no introduction to the majority of readers, silently took in the proceedings as the agenda unfolded. Those who know Murray realize it won't take long before he's contributing in his new position, with either appropriate suggestions, or incisive questions.

There were several other highlights to the meeting. HHHS Interim CEO Janice Hardy reported that Highland Crest has had an outbreak of cough and cold symptoms among its patients, and for the time being is closed down to visitors. She said that the outbreak wasn't serious, and that the close-down was precautionary. She went on to explain that 81% of patients to the Minden Emergency facility were of the non urgent variety. The figure for non urgent patient visits in Haliburton was an almost-equal 78%, despite the clinic and the relative abundance of physicians in Haliburton. The board was at a loss as to why the two figures were so close. Jean Anthon congratulated Hardy for her "excellent and comprehensive" CEO's written report.

Dr Bob Heyes reported on behalf of the Medical Advisory Committee that Haliburton now had 2 new physicians for the emergency department. A discussion ensued as to how much each physician should receive for their trips to and from Toronto, where they live. Although the going rate is $0.40/km for travel, in "an increasingly competitive landscape," it was suggested that the doctors be given more; $1/km was bandied about, for time spent sitting behind the wheel, and for additional expenses like meals en route. Board member Olaf Kraulis stated that those physicians coming from Barrie and Lindsay should be compensated similarly. While the committee agreed in principle to the $1/km travel allowance, it was decided to refer the issue to the Finance Committee.

There was discussion of a Midwife who was new to the area, and about Midwifery as it might impact on the community. There are provisions in the bylaws for midwifery applications apparently, and it was stated that there are about 3000 women of childbearing age in the catchment area. This figure translates into potentially 100 home deliveries per year. There was general acknowledgment expressed by the board for both opportunity and concerns around the issue.

Alan Clark raised the interesting aspect of potentially significant savings to be had, up to $175,000 per year, by converting both hospital facilities to a geothermal system. He explained this could be accomplished by capturing heat from the ground at the Minden site, and possibly from the ground or the lake in Haliburton. Geo thermal energy systems have proved to be effective at other hospital sites like St Mikes and Northumberland. Mr Clark went on to explain that the equipment would have an approximate life span of 25 years. He suggested that the system, which would cost in the vicinity of $1.8 million to install, could be paid back in 6-8 years, which would leave 16 to 18 years of significant savings, which could be effectively spent elsewhere. "We can't find a downside," said Clark, "and it would significantly reduce our environmental footprint." Jeanne Anthon expressed concerns in getting permits to use the lake in Haliburton. Olaf Kraulis spoke out and said that he has a geo thermal system installed in his home, and he cautioned about maintenance costs and costs of supplementary systems in case of black outs. "Everything is fine when it works," he said, but what happens when it doesn't?" Alan Clark had the last word on the subject. "It has exciting prospects."

Pictured Above:
Jeanne Anthon officially welcomes Murray Fearrey to the Board of Directors of HHHS

Report from the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation

Submitted By: Dale Walker, HHHSF Executive Director

The HHHS Foundation is an incorporated registered Canadian charity with a board of directors of 12 community volunteers. The purpose of the HHHSF is to raise funds for equipment, technology and capital projects for the healthcare and hospital facilities in Haliburton and Minden. The Foundation also supports education and training programs for the HHHS staff as well as a bursary for a deserving high school student entering the health services field.

Since the inception of the Foundation in 1997, we have raised approximately $7 million for the capital building projects, equipment & technology. Following that success, the Foundation launched in June 2007 the $2.5 million "Reach For The Future" campaign for the digital diagnostic imaging technology, also known as Picture Archiving Communication Systems (PACS) and other priority equipment needs for both the long term care and hospital areas.

The board of directors and staff meet on a monthly basis to review the progress of the campaign, the financial reports, the fundraising events, the marketing initiatives and the various annual programs.

At the January board meeting held at the HHHS Minden site, the board was advised of the success of the annual Christmas letter with a total raised of $93,000! They also were advised of the many donations received from the patient letter. Along with some of the donations were notes of thanks concerning the excellent care that was administered while they or their loved ones were patients at the HHHS. These notes are appreciated and passed along to the appropriate staff.

The Foundation has also received several bequests in the past year. We appreciate the thoughtful planning these people did to consider the hospital and health care facilities in their wills.

The Foundation has also benefited from gifts of stocks and securities. Giving stocks rather than cash is very beneficial to the donor due to the recent government ruling eliminating capital gains taxes on donated securities. The donor also receives the tax benefit of making a charitable donation. People considering these gifts should consult with their financial advisor. The Foundation does not gamble with these securities, but liquidates them immediately to benefit the hospital and health care facilities.

Chairman Peter Oyler advised the confirmed dates of the special events:
Thursday July 24th – Rotary Charity Golf Classic at the Delta Pinestone Resort
Thursday August 14th & Friday August 15th – Moose 93.5 FM Radiothon
Saturday October 18th – A Classy Cocktail Caper at the Wigamog Inn Resort

In March the spring newsletter will be distributed with all the latest news. We will also be hosting open houses at both facilities to view the emergency department renovations and the PACS. We hope you will join us.

The board of directors wishes to thank the many donors for their wonderful gifts, the businesses and companies for your sponsorships and donations, the individuals and artists for your auction items and the very dedicated volunteers. Without your continued support all of this would not be possible. Thank You!

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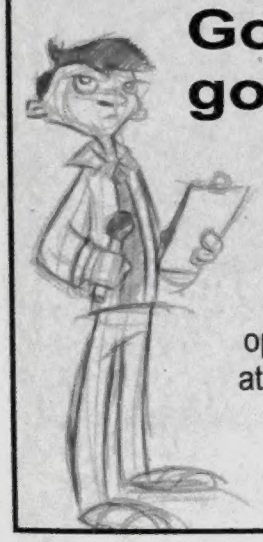

Got a good **SCOOP?**

If you see or hear some news, take a picture or give us a call. We will PAY **$100 CASH** for the best "Scoop or Picture" of the month. This is your chance to be The Reporter...So keep those ears open for story leads, or keep those cameras on you at all times!! And call the County Voice at **457-5001**. Don't be shy. We want to hear from you.

Best pic or scoop of the year gets a cool $500 CASH!

Meet The Dump Deer

While The Bears Are Sleeping The Deer Will Play...

It seems that deer have taken over where the bears have left off, foraging for food in the dump. While at first everyone at the Voice felt concerned about why so many deer were slumming it at the landfill, seemingly scrounging... we actually found out that this is only a brief stop on the way to the real feeding grounds. Actually, according to the local MNR, there is a significant deer yard near that dump, as well as several residents feeding the deer – so the herd often swings by for veggies – although the glue stick was a shock! We don`t think they have taken up any bad habits associated with glue - at least we hope - but we think this was just one hammy deer playing for our cameras !!

Earthweek: A Diary of the Planet

By Steve Newman

End of an Epoch

The impact humans have had on the surface of the planet has become so expansive that scientists say Earth has entered a new epoch — the Anthropocene. Jan Zalasiewicz and Mark Williams at the University of Leicester, and their colleagues on the Stratigraphy Commission of the Geological Society of London, analyzed a proposal made by Nobel Prize-winning chemist Paul Crutzen in 2000 that suggested the world has left the Holocene because of the global environmental effects of increased human population and economic development. They factored in transformed patterns of sediment, disruptions to the carbon cycle and wholesale changes to the world's plants and animals. The team argues that the dominance of humans has so physically changed the planetary landscape that post-industrialized Earth can no longer be considered still in the Holocene epoch. Duke University soil scientist Daniel Richter wrote in the journal *Soil Science* that more than half of all soils on Earth are now being cultivated for food crops, grazed or periodically logged for wood.

Tropical Cyclones

At least seven people were left dead in the wake of Cyclone Gene, which inflicted significant damage on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu. Winds of up to 93 mph downed power lines, plunging the capital of Suva and other communities into darkness. Flash flooding forced thousands into evacuation centers. The storm took aim at Vanuatu late in the week.

• Cyclone Gula brought heavy rainfall to Mauritius as it passed just east of the Indian Ocean island. Cyclone Fame moved southward between Reunion and Madagascar.

Mysterious Bat Deaths

Bats hibernating in the caves and mines of the northeastern United States are dying off by the thousands due to a mysterious condition being called "white nose syndrome." The name refers to the white circles of fungus that have been found around the noses of affected bats. Deaths were first discovered in caves of eastern New York in January 2007. Since then, between 8,000 and 11,000 have died in the largest die-off of bats due to disease documented in North America. The disease has now spread to eight sites in New York and another in neighboring Vermont. Conservation groups have urged the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ban the public from all bat hibernation sites to prevent the illness from being spread. "We do not know how the disease is transmitted and whether there are any potential effects on humans," said Vermont wildlife biologist Scott Darling. Bats are particularly vulnerable when they hibernate because they can hang together tightly by the thousands.

Cross-Primate Infection

Scientists studying possible health threats to great apes from such activities as research and ecotourism have found the first direct evidence that viral diseases in humans can be passed on to the wild primates. Previous studies had demonstrated the spread of only mild bacterial and parasitic infections from humans to wild apes. "We need to be much more proactive about instituting strict hygiene precautions at all ape-tourism and research sites," said wildlife disease epidemiologist Fabian Leendertz. The study also showed that research and tourism projects greatly decreased the level of poaching of chimpanzees.

Eruptive Attraction

Ecuador's Tungurahua volcano produced several blasts that extended the mountain's current eruptive phase, which began on Jan. 5. While eruptions there in 2006 killed six people and destroyed thousands of acres of crops, the latest explosions have attracted a large number of tourists rather than scaring them away, according to local officials.

Earthquakes

A 6.2 magnitude quake centered in eastern Indonesia's Maluku province jolted several islands and prompted seismologists to issue a brief tsunami warning.

• Earth movements were also felt in western Japan, the northern Yukon Territory, southern Colorado and around Lake Tahoe.

Seed Bank Deposit

Seeds from more than 200,000 varieties of crops from Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Latin America have just been placed in a storage facility on a remote island near the Arctic Circle, where they will be stored in case a manmade or natural disaster destroys agriculture. Various types of rice, wheat, beans, sorghum, sweet potatoes, lentils, chick peas and a host of other plants will be stored at the Svalbard Global Seed Vault, which is capable of preserving their vitality for thousands of years. The doomsday vault, built by Norway as a service to the global community, will officially open on Feb. 26. The facility is designed to be able to replenish other gene banks around the world if they are hit by catastrophe.

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Photos By:
Lyn Winans